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Weekend

2007

THE YEAR IN PHOTOS | 12



Tiger Attack: Wall around animal was too low, zoo says | 3

Cash Back: AMT freeze will delay refunds, IRS warns | 3

ENTERTAINMENT

Super Year:

In 2007, *Judd Apatow* made us laugh, *Rihanna* made us annoying and the WGA strike made us bored.

>> 23-33



DATE WITH DESTINY

REDSKINS FACE THE COWBOYS WITH THE PLAYOFFS ON THE LINE | 18



Pakistanis carry the coffin of assassinated former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto Thursday. She was 54.

Bhutto Is Killed in Pakistan

Assassination of former PM sparks outrage, mourning

RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN | Pakistan opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was assassinated Thursday by an attacker who shot her after a campaign rally and then blew himself up. Her death stoked new chaos across the nuclear-armed nation, an important U.S. ally in the war on terrorism.

At least 20 others were killed in the attack on the rally for Jan. 8 parliamentary elections where the 54-year-old former prime minister had just spoken. At least nine people were killed across the country in rioting that broke out in the aftermath of the assassination.

At the hospital where Bhutto died, some supporters smashed glass and wailed, chanting slogans against President Pervez Musharraf, whom they blamed for not ensuring her safety. Musharraf blamed Islamic extremists for her death and said he would redouble his efforts to fight them.

In the U.S., a tense-looking President Bush strongly condemned the attack "by murderous extremists who are trying to undermine Pakistan's democracy." (AP)

❖ **Epic life:** Beloved and controversial, Benazir Bhutto was a victim of Pakistan's rolling passion | Page 6



DO YOU THINK MAKING NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS IS A GOOD WAY TO START THE YEAR? **A YES B NO**

WWW.READEXPRESS.COM | VISIT OUR WEB SITE TO CAST YOUR VOTE. FOR THURSDAY'S POLL RESULTS, SEE PAGE 40



FRIDAY
50/42



SATURDAY
57/34



SUNDAY
46/34

TODAY: Increasingly cloudy with rain starting late, lasting into night | 42

eyeOpeners

LAST WISHES

Around the World In Many Little Pieces

Friends of an artist were handed envelopes containing her ashes at her memorial service and given a task: Spread the ashes wherever they felt appropriate. Sculptor Patricia Renick's ashes ended up all over the world, her friends said, from a courtyard at the Nelson-Atkins Museum in Kansas City, Mo., to the side of a Tibetan mountain. The 75-year-old Renick, who died in May, was a University of Cincinnati professor emeritus of fine art. Her longtime companion Laura Chapman came up with the idea to distribute the ashes. (AP)



INDIGNITIES

Cat Loses Job, Teeth

Neither strong wind nor high flames bothered Nin the cat during a dozen years patrolling the Northeast's highest peak as mascot of the Mount Washington Observatory in New Hampshire. It's retirement that bums him out. The regal ex-stray with a bright white coat and black spots was carried off the mountain Wednesday for the last time and will live with some park rangers in the valley below due to old age and a recent infection claiming the last of his teeth. Nin is moving in with Diane Holmes and Mike Pelchat, rangers at Mount Washington State Park, after years of petting and pampering from visitors and researchers alike. (AP)



LOWE/LEIN/AP

ELASTICITY

No Hands, One Butt

Tanzania's Lazarus Gito is kind of like that lady in those Residence Inn commercials from Marriott. Except instead of a weird robo-vest of the future, he's wearing a leopard-print, um, ensemble. And instead of balancing an apple on his foot, he's smoking a cigarette with it. (Easier to hide the nicotine stains?) He's pictured here Thursday during the final rehearsal before the Mother Africa circus — featuring all African performers — begins its European tour.

(EXPRESS)

RICH PERSON'S CHECKLIST

Next Up: Dodo Eggs

A collector from New York has purchased a rare 24-cent stamp depicting an upside-down airplane for \$825,000,

according to an auction house. The unidentified buyer of the "Inverted Jenny" stamp was described as a Wall Street executive and longtime coin collector by Heritage Auction Galleries, which announced the sale

Wednesday. The 1918 stamp depicts a Curtiss JN-4 "Jenny," a World War I training aircraft that became an airmail plane. About 700 of the stamps were misprinted, but inspectors caught all but 100 before they were sold. (AP)

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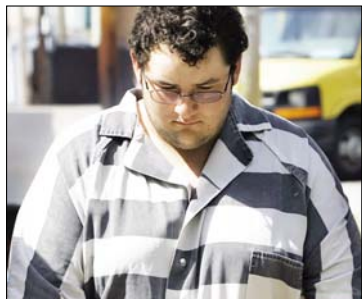




SNOT ALLOWED: Sometimes you need a police officer; sometimes you need a tissue. Confuse the two, and it could cost you. A woman in Dunbar, W.Va., was charged with battery after police said she wiped her nose on the back of a police officer's shirt.

Nation

In Brief



MICHAEL CONROY/AP

Zachariah Blanton pleaded guilty to a series of highway sniper shootings.

BROWNSTOWN, IND.

Teen Sentenced to 42 Years In Prison for Sniper Attacks

A teenager who pleaded guilty to killing one man and wounding another in a series of 2006 Indiana highway sniper shootings was sentenced Thursday to 42 years in prison. Defense attorneys tried to portray 18-year-old Zachariah Blanton as troubled and the victim of teasing, but the judge said his emotional problems were no excuse for killing someone he had never met. (AP)

HOUSTON

Launch of Shuttle Atlantis May Be Postponed Again

The space shuttle Atlantis' mission to the international space station likely will be pushed back a few more days or weeks as engineers study problems with electrical connectors in the spaceship's external fuel tank, a top NASA manager said Thursday. NASA had been aiming for a Jan. 10 liftoff of Atlantis with a European lab for the space station. (AP)

Zoo Director: Tiger's Wall Was Low

Experts doubt animal could have leaped out of its zoo enclosure

SAN FRANCISCO | The director of the zoo where a teenager was killed by an escaped tiger acknowledged Thursday that the wall around the animal's pen was just 12½ feet high — well below the height recommended by the main accrediting agency for the nation's zoos.

According to the Association of Zoos & Aquariums, the minimum recommended height for tiger exhibit walls is 16.4 feet.

San Francisco Zoo Director Manuel A. Mollinedo said safety inspectors had examined the nearly 70-year-old wall and never raised red flags about its size.

"When the AZA came out and inspected our zoo three years ago, they never noted that as a deficiency," Mollinedo said. "Obviously now



KURT ROGERS/AP FILE

Tatiana, a female Siberian tiger, was shot to death on Christmas Day after it escaped from the San Francisco Zoo, killing one person and injuring two others.

that something's happened, we're going to be revisiting the actual height."

Investigators have yet to say how the 300-pound Siberian tiger got out of the open-air enclosure. But

based on the initial estimates of the height of the wall, animal experts expressed disbelief that a tiger in captivity could have made such a spectacular leap.

The animal went on a rampage near closing time on Christmas Day, mauling three visitors before it was shot to death by police. Carlos Sousa Jr., 17, died and two brothers, ages 19 and 23, suffered severe bite and claw wounds.

The San Francisco Chronicle, citing anonymous sources, reported Thursday that police are investigating the possibility that the victims had taunted the tiger and dangled a leg or other body part over the edge of the moat.

But at an afternoon news conference, Police Chief Heather Fong said police had no information that anyone had put a leg over the railing. She did not address whether the victims had teased the tiger.

JORDAN ROBERTSON (AP)

Tax Switch Will Delay Some Refunds

Congress' freeze on the AMT slows down processing at the IRS

WASHINGTON | More than 3 million people will have to wait until February to get their tax refunds because of Congress' late fix to the alternative minimum tax, the IRS said Thursday.

LATE CORRECTION

→ Congress passes legislation every year to keep the alternative minimum tax from expanding. The fix this year was delayed by a fight between Republicans and Democrats over whether some taxes should rise to offset the cost of correcting the AMT.

Congress put a one-year freeze on growth of the alternative minimum tax last week, shielding many middle- and upper-middle income taxpayers from first exposure to the tax. But Congress' late action means the Internal Revenue Service won't be able to start processing five AMT-related forms until February, delaying potential refunds for those people until that month.

Between 3 million and 4 million people filed in January of last year using those forms, with many of those people expecting a refund, the IRS said.

"We regret the inconvenience the delay will mean for million of early tax filers, especially those expecting a refund," acting IRS Commissioner Linda Stiff said.

As many as 13.5 million people will have to wait until Feb. 11 to start filing with the five AMT-related forms. JESSE J. HOLLAND (AP)

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Nation

"When you try and take something away from us like freedom, my goodness, Americans are going to be one in resisting you."

—Rudy Giuliani, in a new campaign ad that draws attention to the Sept. 11 attacks



NEW YORK | BETTER LIGHT NEXT YEAR



TINA FINEBERG/AP

BUILDING THE BALL: Workers install Waterford Crystal "Let There Be Light" triangles on the new Times Square New Year's Eve ball on Thursday. The new, improved ball is more than twice as bright as the old one with enhanced color capabilities and energy-efficient LED lighting effects.

Hopefuls Condemn Attack

Clinton, McCain tout policy experience as crisis engulfs Pakistan

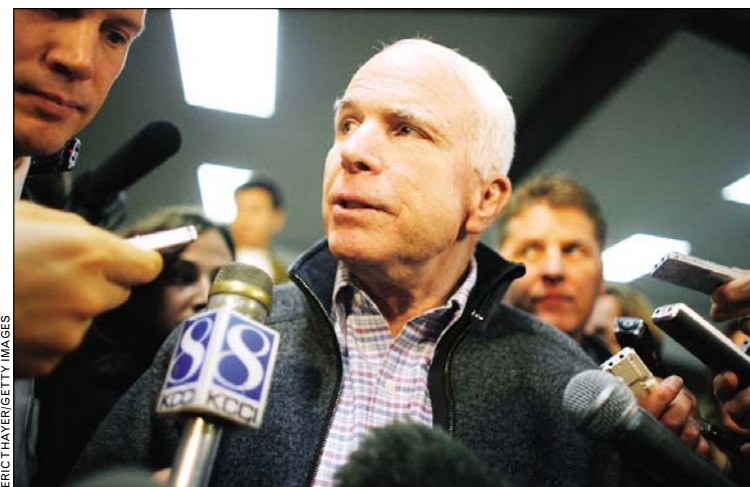
DES MOINES, IOWA | The assassination of Benazir Bhutto in Pakistan jolted the race for the White House on Thursday, sending candidates in both parties scrambling for political advantage while condemning the attack.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona and Democratic Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton of New York said the murder was proof of a need for a president who is ready to take command.

"I know from my lifetime of experience you have to be prepared for whatever might happen, and that's particularly true today," Clinton said in Iowa.

McCain was not reticent about comparing his experience with that of other GOP contenders.

"My theme has been throughout this campaign that I'm the one with the experience, the knowledge and



Republican presidential candidate Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., stressed his years of experience in government while campaigning on Thursday in Des Moines, Iowa.

the judgment."

McCain made no mention of another leading Republican rival, Mitt Romney. But the former Massachusetts governor was eager to join the debate.

"If the answer for leading the country is someone that has a lot of foreign policy experience, we can just go down to the State Depart-

ment and pick up any one of the tens of thousands of people who spent all their life in foreign policy," he said.

Instead, he said, what is needed is a chief executive with leadership and the ability to assemble "a great team of people to be able to guide and direct them to understand what decision has to be made." (AP)

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World



"[Bhutto] risked everything in her attempt to win democracy ... and she has been assassinated by cowards who are afraid of democracy."

—Gordon Brown, British prime minister, on the assassination of Benazir Bhutto on Thursday.

Tragic End to a Tumultuous Life for Bhutto

First female leader of a Muslim nation led epic, tumultuous life

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN | Benazir Bhutto was many things — zealous guardian of her dead father's legacy, aristocratic populist, accused rogue, even one of People magazine's 50 most beautiful people. And in the end, she was a victim of roiling passions in the nation she sought to lead for a third time.

To the West, she was the appealing and glamorous face of Pakistan — a trailblazing feminist, the first woman to lead a Muslim nation in modern times — though her aura was dimmed by accusations of corruption.

But to many Pakistanis, she was a leader who spoke for them, voicing their needs and hopes. Even her worst critics would say that "she was a masterful politician," said Zaffar Abbas, an editor for the Dawn newspaper. She knew "what the people of this country wanted."



Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto speaks in Rawalpindi on Thursday minutes before she was assassinated.



ALL PHOTOS JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

Bhutto's life was a sprawling epic. Her father, Pakistan's president and then prime minister, was hanged; one brother died mysteriously, the

other in a shootout. She spent five years imprisoned by her father's tormentors, mostly in solitary confinement, before rising twice to the

In the Post: Repercussions unclear Bhutto's death plunges Pakistan into fresh turmoil, in a year that has already been filled with violence. **Today's Post, A1**

QUICK TIMELINE

Recent events in Bhutto's life:

- Oct. 18: Bhutto returns to Pakistan.
- Nov. 9 & 13: Police place Bhutto under house arrest.
- Dec. 1: Bhutto announces her election campaign.
- Dec. 25: Bhutto accuses Musharraf of failing to stop the spread of Islamic militants.

office of prime minister.

She fled before her conviction on corruption charges, living abroad for eight years. When she returned in October to marshal opposition to President Pervez Musharraf, a suicide attacker targeted her homecoming parade in Karachi. More than 140 people died. Bhutto escaped injury.

She was a survivor, and proud of it. Thirteen years before, when a reporter suggested that her life was like a Greek tragedy, she laughed.

"Well, I hope not so tragic," she said. "Don't all Greek dramas end in tragedy?" (AP)

In Brief

JERUSALEM, ISRAEL

Olmert, Abbas Agree to Put Aside Dispute Over Housing

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas agreed Thursday to put aside a dispute over Israeli construction in Jerusalem and negotiate a final peace agreement, according to participants in the two sides' first meeting since relaunching peace talks last month. The meeting appeared to break an impasse. (AP)

NEW DELHI, INDIA

Hindu Extremists Set Fire to Churches, Defying Curfew

Hindu extremists torched nearly a dozen churches and the home of a Christian leader Thursday, defying a curfew imposed to quell three days of religious violence in India. Christians retaliated by setting fire to several homes belonging to Hindus. (AP)

Bhutto's Assassination Condemned

World leaders express dismay at Bhutto's death, hopes for peace

From Moscow to Washington to New Delhi and points in between, dismay and condemnation poured forth Thursday over the assassination of Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, along with concern for the stability of the region. World leaders lauded her bravery and commitment to democratic reform.

The U.N. Security Council voted unanimously to condemn the killing and urged all nations to help bring those responsible for "this reprehensible act" to justice.

Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh said Bhutto was irreplaceable. "I was deeply shocked and horrified to hear of the heinous assassination," Singh said. "[T]he subcontinent has lost



An injured supporter of Benazir Bhutto is carried after a suicide blast in Rawalpindi.

B.K. BANGASH/AP

an outstanding leader who worked for democracy and reconciliation in her country."

Afghanistan's President Hamid Karzai, who met Bhutto earlier on Thursday in Islamabad, said he was "deeply pained" by the assassina-

tion of "this brave sister of ours... She sacrificed her life ... for the sake of this region," he said.

U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called for Pakistanis "to work together for peace and national unity." (AP)

Sharif Declares Party Boycott Of Jan. Elections

RAWALPINDI, PAKISTAN | Pakistani opposition leader Nawaz Sharif announced Thursday his party was boycotting next month's elections following the assassination of Benazir Bhutto. He demanded that President Pervez Musharraf resign immediately.

"The holding of fair and free elections is not possible in the presence of Pervez Musharraf. After the killing of Benazir Bhutto, I announce that the Pakistan Muslim League-N will boycott the elections," Sharif told a news conference, referring to his party.

Sharif, 57, urged other parties to join the boycott of the Jan. 8 parliamentary elections. A collective response, including by Bhutto's own party, could seriously undermine the legitimacy of the vote. (AP)

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World

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Approximate amount of losses to insurers worldwide, in billions of dollars, caused by natural disasters in 2007 — nearly double the 2006 total, according to reinsurer Munich Re.

Tight Race Ends in Kenya

Millions cast ballots in presidential election marked by violence

NAIROBI, KENYA | Millions turned out Thursday for Kenya's closest-ever presidential race — a contest pitting President Mwai Kibaki against a former ally — in relatively peaceful balloting after a campaign marked by violence and vote-rigging charges.

Lines stretched for miles at some polling stations, a sign that Kenyans are increasingly confident in the power of their votes as the continent swings firmly toward democracy.

In the run-up to the election between Kibaki and flamboyant opposition candidate Raila Odinga, clashes in western Kenya killed



Kenyans wait in line to cast their ballots at a polling station in Nyeri, Thursday.

hundreds. An outlawed gang called Mungiki was blamed for a string of beheadings.

Wednesday, authorities said opposition supporters stoned to death three police officers in western Kenya, accusing them of being

part of a government conspiracy to rig the elections.

Thursday, supporters of a candidate in a rural area 300 miles west of Nairobi picked up a man suspected of bribing voters, but he fell from their truck and died. Police were investigating whether the man was pushed from the vehicle.

There has been bloodshed every election year since multiparty politics was re-introduced in 1992 after a 22-year period as a one-party state. While 2007's campaign has so far been less violent than past elections, several diplomats have expressed concern that a narrow victory on either side could lead to rioting by those who don't accept or trust the results.

Most polls closed at 5 p.m. The first official results were expected Friday. ELIZABETH A. KENNEDY (AP)

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*Offer valid on all 2008 Volkswagen models. Example lease is intended to explain the offer and may not specifically apply to a model featured above. Based on MSRP of \$17,630.00 for a 2008 Jetta S with manual transmission, excluding title, taxes, options and dealer charges. Closed end lease offered to highest qualified customers by Volkswagen Credit through participating dealers. Monthly payments total \$9462.00. Requires dealer contribution of \$145.80, which could affect final negotiated transaction. Purchase option at lease end for \$10,401.70. Lessee responsible for insurance. At lease end lessee responsible for \$.20/mile over 39,000 miles and for damage and excessive wear. Additional charges may apply at lease end. Dealer sets actual prices. See your local Volkswagen dealer for details. Supplies limited. ©2007 Volkswagen of America, Inc. U.S. cars only.

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FRIDAY | 12.28.2007 | EXPRESS | 9

Money

Warner Music Goes Digital

Company will sell tracks in MP3 format through Amazon.com

SEATTLE | Warner Music Group, a major holdout on selling music online without copy protection, caved in to the growing trend Thursday and agreed to sell its tunes in Amazon.com's digital music store.

Until now, Warner Music had resisted offering songs by its artists in the MP3 format, which can be copied to multiple computers and burned onto CDs without restriction and played on most PCs and digital media players.

The deal raises the total number of MP3s for sale through Amazon's music download store to more than



MARK LENIHAN/AP

Warner CEO Edgar Bronfman Jr. is taking the label's music to Amazon.com.

2.9 million. Warner Music's entire catalog, including work by artists Led Zeppelin, Aretha Franklin and Sean Paul, will be added to the site throughout the week.

Major music labels Univer-

sal Music Group and EMI Music Group PLC had already signed on to sell large portions of their catalogs on Amazon, as had thousands of independent labels.

In an e-mail distributed to Warner employees Thursday, Warner CEO Edgar Bronfman Jr. noted that selling downloads without DRM would help spur new types of online music applications and foster competition among online retailers.

"By removing a barrier to the sale and enjoyment of audio downloads, we bring an energy-sapping debate to a close and allow ourselves to refocus on opportunities and products that will benefit not only WMG, but our artists and our consumers as well," Bronfman wrote. JESSICA MINTZ (AP)

HEARSAY | REBATES

"We will literally issue them a check. We're sick of waiting for the federal government to do something."

—JARED MOSKOWITZ, VICE MAYOR OF PARKLAND, FLA. THE CITY IS PLANNING TO ISSUE CASH REBATES TO 25,000 RESIDENTS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES.

Analysts See Bigger Citigroup Loss

NEW YORK | When Citigroup warned in early November that it was likely to write down its portfolio by \$8 billion to \$11 billion in the fourth quarter because of exposure to bad loans, investors recoiled at the size of the losses. Some now say those early estimates appear drastically understated.

Citigroup Inc. could write off as much as \$18.7 billion in the fourth

quarter, wrote Goldman analysts William F. Tanona, Betsy Miller and Neil C. Sanyal in a note to investors late Wednesday.

Already, Citigroup has been propped up by a \$7.5 billion investment from the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, a sovereign wealth fund that in late November bought a 4.9 percent stake in the ailing bank. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
AmrRlty	9.51	+.67	+7.6
DianaShip	32.02	+2.10	+7.0
KA MLP	29.19	+1.84	+6.7
MSCI Inc n	36.55	+2.20	+6.4
SignetGp	14.41	+.83	+6.1

Losers

Primedia rs	8.47	-1.57	-15.6
CrwfdB	4.80	-.77	-13.8
Visteon	4.23	-.59	-12.2
WCI Cmts	4.07	-.55	-11.9
StdPac	3.39	-.44	-11.5

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25
Fed Funds close	5.23	5.23
3-month disc	4.76	4.81
2-year	4.68	4.64
10-year	4.67	4.68
30-year	4.83	4.86

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
AmDental	10.20	+4.68	+84.8
DocuSci	14.49	+6.26	+76.0
EngyFocus	6.85	+1.71	+33.3
OceanPw n	16.90	+3.12	+22.6
Iomai	1.05	-.03	-2.8

Losers

PluristTh n	3.25	-.66	-16.9
ICO Glb A	3.54	-.64	-15.3
Neurgn	3.54	-.59	-14.3
CenterFncl	11.98	-1.96	-14.1
GeivityHR	7.68	-1.26	-14.1

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5011	.5041	.5111
Canadian Dollar	.9806	.9810	1.1611
European Euro	.6837	.6897	.7620
Japanese Yen	113.69	114.26	118.71
Mexican Peso	10.8809	10.8151	10.9005
Taiwanese Dollar	32.57	32.54	32.71

DOW NASDAQ S&P 500

-192.08	-47.62	-21.39
-1.42	-1.75	-1.43
13359.61	2676.79	1476.27

Pharmacy Stocks

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	YEAR TO DATE PERCENT CHANGE
AbtLab	56.98	-.90	+17.0
Allergan s	64.75	-.84	+8.2
AstraZen	43.50	-.39	-18.8
BarrPhm	54.22	-.33	+8.2
BrMySq	27.39	-.57	+5.2
Cephln	72.67	-1.04	+3.2
ForestLab	36.69	-.62	-27.5
Hospira	43.17	-.31	+28.6
JohnJn	67.33	-.23	+2.0
LillyEli	53.88	-.43	+3.4
Merck	58.57	-.85	+34.3
Pfizer	22.92	-.28	-11.5
SchergPl	26.84	-.32	+13.5
WarnerChil	17.57	-.20	+27.1
Wyeth	44.49	-.85	-12.6

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FREE TO ROAM: An unannounced search at Virginia's lone private prison turned up a half-dozen cell phones in the hands of inmates. As a result, the state Department of Corrections now has assigned dogs trained to detect cell phones and other contraband at the Lawrenceville Correctional Facility.

Local

Girl Saved in Aspen Hill House Fire

2 brothers break out basement window to free 8-year-old niece

ASPEN HILL, MD. | An 8-year-old girl was found alive Thursday morning after two brothers broke out a small basement window of a burning home and went in to search for her before firefighters arrived.

With heavy smoke conditions in the home, the brothers — 21-year-old Ryan Parker and 16-year-old Dylan Parker — broke out the window and crawled into the basement to search for the little girl, a niece of theirs who was a guest at the home.

The little girl was "breaths away



Ryan Parker, 21, holds a niece who was not in the house at the time of the fire. Parker helped save another niece, who was trapped inside Thursday in Aspen Hill, Md.

from real tragedy," doctors told Montgomery County Fire and Rescue spokesman Pete Piringer.

She and one of the brothers are being treated for smoke inhalation.

Piringer says firefighters were called to the one-story rambler in Aspen Hill at about 2:30 a.m. One of the young men in the home had smelled smoke. He found a fire raging in the utility room and woke the home's seven occupants.

One of three dogs in the home died in the fire, which Piringer says was caused by a faulty furnace. He says the house had no working smoke alarms. The fire caused an estimated \$350,000 in damage to the home. (AP)

The Lotteries

Thursday, Dec. 27

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	1-3-8
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	8-0-8
Mid-day DC 4	7-7-4-9
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	0-7-9-1
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	7-15-19-21-23
Daily 6 (Wed.)	3-7-14-28-33-36 Bonus: 18
Hot Lotto (Wed.)	4-12-13-35-39 (16)

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	6-6-4
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	0-6-8
Mid-day Pick 4	0-4-4-8
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	6-5-2-6
Match 5 (Wed.)	13-18-24-34-35 Bonus: 14
Lotto (Wed.)	1-5-8-15-25-28

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Thurs.)	5-7-6
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	4-7-2
Mid-day Pick 4 (Thurs.)	5-8-3-3
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	2-1-5-7
Mid-day Cash 5 (Thurs.)	4-8-11-16-25
Evening Cash 5 (Wed.)	6-16-20-23-27
Win for Life (Wed.)	8-14-17-19-21-32

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Mega Millions (Tues.)	19-36-37-48-52
Mega Ball	8
Powerball (Wed.)	8-32-41-54-55 (20)
Power Play	3X

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Va. Traffic Deaths Approach 1,000

RICHMOND, VA. | A sharp increase in fatal motorcycle crashes appears certain to put Virginia's highway death toll at more than 1,000 for the first time since 1990.

According to the state police, the toll stood at 997 Thursday, with the always-dangerous New Year's holiday still ahead. Over the last five years, an average of 11 people have died on the state's highways during holiday weekend.

Last year, 961 people died in Virginia traffic accidents. Since the Department of Motor Vehicles began keeping computerized records in 1971, the high mark for fatalities was 1,100 in 1972.

Through October of this year, 116 motorcyclists had died on the state's highways, up from 62 at the same time last year. That difference of 54 deaths accounts for all of this year's overall increase —

and then some.

Some of the factors behind the highway carnage are drunken driving, failure to buckle seat belts, and distracted driving such as talking on cell phones and text-messaging by drivers police and traffic safety advocates say.

"Distracted driving is huge and becoming a bigger problem every day," said Martha Meade, a spokeswoman for AAA Mid-Atlantic. LARRY O'DELL (AP)

Frederick May Lift Growth Ban

FREDERICK, MD. | Frederick Mayor Jeff Holtzinger says a 5-year-old ban on growth through annexations could be lifted as early as February.

The review follows an agreement allowing the city to receive some of the water from a Potomac River pipeline built by Frederick County. (AP)

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THE YEAR IN PHOTOS

AFTERIMAGE | 2007



PUTIN SHOWS SOME SKIN

When he flexes Russia's diplomatic and military muscle, President Vladimir Putin always makes headlines. But few could have predicted the squall of gossip that followed after Putin was photographed shirtless during a vacation in Siberia in August. **DMITRY ASTAKHOV/AP**



MONKS PROTEST

Buddhist monks pray in front of a road blocked by riot police in Yangon, Myanmar, in September. An increase in fuel prices prompted thousands of monks to protest against Myanmar's repressive junta. **THE MANDALAY GAZETTE/AP**



DEAN BRINGS DELUGE

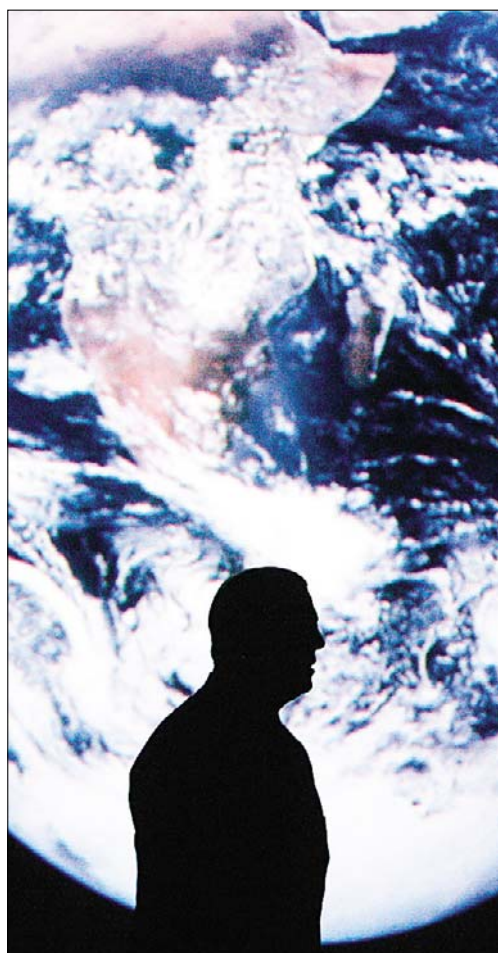
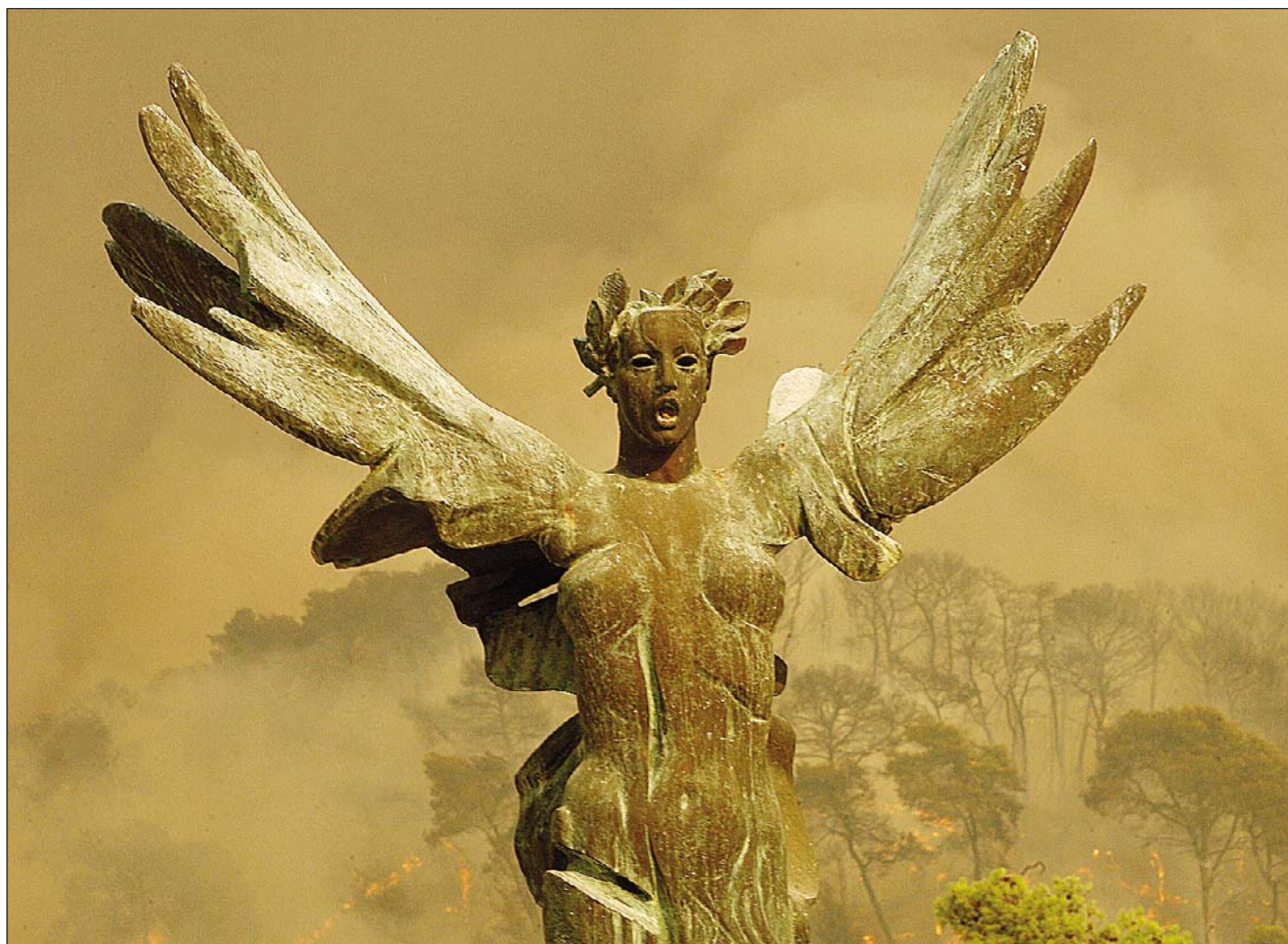
A woman walks through heavy rain and wind brought by Hurricane Dean on Aug. 21 in Mexico's Yucatan peninsula. The first hurricane of the 2007 season, Dean killed dozens throughout the Caribbean. **GREGORY BULL/AP**



MIDEAST UNREST

An Israeli army dog attacks a Palestinian woman in the West Bank village of Obadiyah. Tensions remained high between Israelis and Palestinians throughout 2007, despite international calls for peace. **KEVIN FRAYER/AP**

AFTERIMAGE 2007



IN MEMORY

A demonstrator wears a sticker of Rafik Hariri in Beirut, Lebanon, on Feb. 14 to mark the second anniversary of the former prime minister's assassination. A U.N. tribunal is investigating the death. BEN CURTIS/AP



HOT TOPIC

Former Vice President Al Gore gives a speech on climate change. Gore won the Nobel Peace prize for his work against global warming in a year when the Arctic saw major melting. MANU FERNANDEZ/AP



GREEK TRAGEDY

The winged statue of victory is framed by smoke from wildfires that scorched Greece in August. More than 50 people died and historic Olympic ruins were damaged. PETROS GIANNAKOURIS/AP



NO RELIEF

Rescuers carry a victim of a bridge collapse in Bangladesh. The bridge crumbled Nov. 24 under the weight of thousands of cyclone victims trying to reach a relief center. The cyclone killed thousands. PAVEL RAHMAN/AP



CROC ATTACK

The severed lower left arm of a Taiwanese veterinarian is seen in the jaws of a crocodile. The arm was later re-attached, but the crocodile was killed. STEVE CHEN/AP

AFTERIMAGE 2007



TECH MASSACRE

Injured Virginia Tech students are carried out of Norris Hall on April 16 in Blacksburg, Va. Gunman Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people on the campus and then took his own life in the worst mass shooting in American history. ALAN KIM/AP

HIGHWAY HORROR

An unidentified person sits on the collapsed decking of the Interstate 35W bridge in Minneapolis. The structure collapsed suddenly on Aug. 1, killing 13 people and raising questions about the safety of the nation's roadways. RICHARD TSONG-TAATARI/AP

ROVE BIDS FAREWELL

President Bush embraces Karl Rove on Aug. 13 after Rove announced he was resigning from his position at the White House. Rove was one of the president's closest advisers and played a large role in his election victories in 2000 and 2004. KAREN BLEIER/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

NOT FORGOTTEN

Mary McHugh mourns her slain fiancé, Sgt. James Regan, at "Section 60" of Arlington National Cemetery. Hundreds of soldiers killed in Iraq and Afghanistan are buried in the section. JOHN MOORE/GETTY IMAGES

AFTERIMAGE 2007



FIX-IT MISSION

The space shuttle Discovery lifts off from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida on Oct. 23. The shuttle's crew performed a difficult repair to a solar panel on the international space station. CHRIS O'MEARA/AP



DALAI LAMA HONORED

President Bush and The Dalai Lama admire the Capitol Rotunda during a Congressional Gold Medal ceremony honoring the Tibetan leader. Bush called the Dalai Lama a "universal symbol of peace and tolerance." PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/AP



ROLLING INFERNO

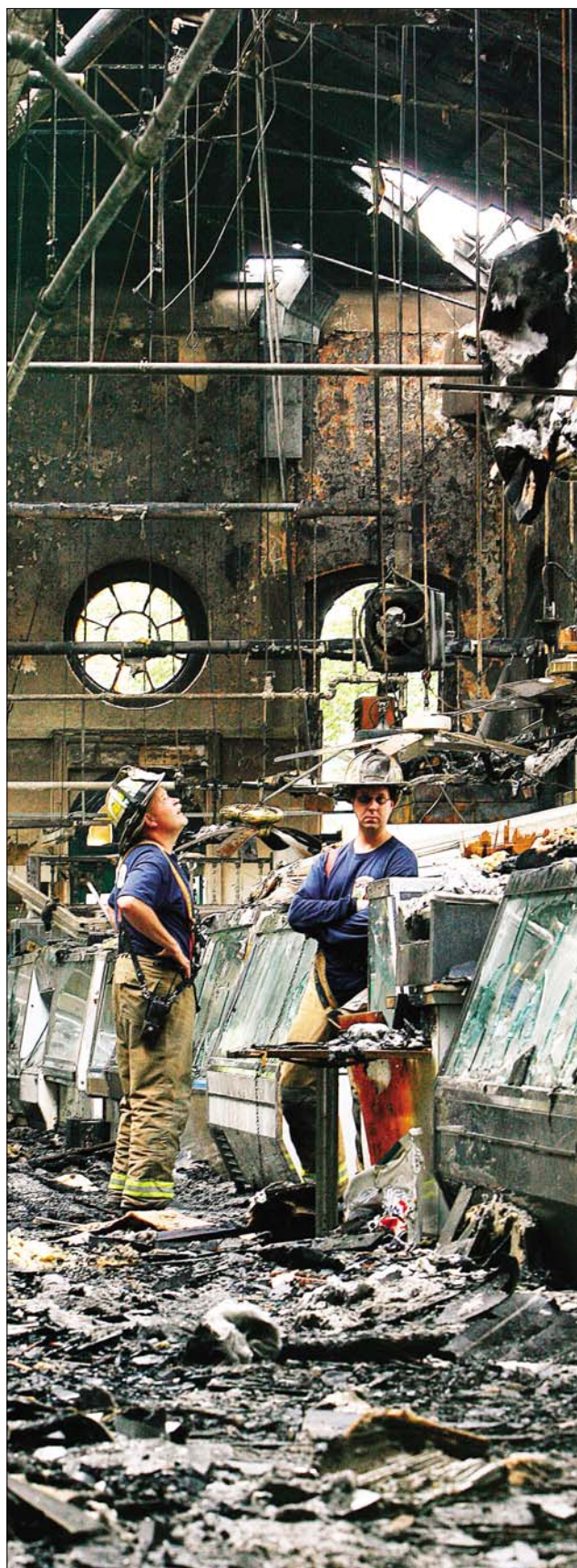
Burning logs roll down a hill on Sept. 18 near Fawnskin, Calif. Unusually dry conditions in the summer and fall sparked a string of wildfires in the state that strained firefighting crews and displaced thousands of residents. DAVID MCNEW/GETTY IMAGES



READY TO RUN

After months of speculation, Hillary Rodham Clinton announced she was running for president on Jan. 22 with a video on her Web site announcing "I'm in." The Democratic senator faces a tough battle for her party's nomination in 2008. DARREN MCCOLESTER/GETTY IMAGES

AFTERIMAGE 2007



HISTORY UP IN FLAMES

DCFD firefighters look over the damage inside Eastern Market in Washington on April 30. A fire raged through the landmark building on the same day that another fire nearly destroyed the historic Georgetown branch library. JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP



CARIBBEAN PRIDE

Greg King covers Tia Coles with powder during the 15th annual Caribbean Carnival Parade along Georgia Avenue in Northwest Washington this summer. LOIS RAIMONDO/THE WASHINGTON POST



MEASURE OF THE MAN

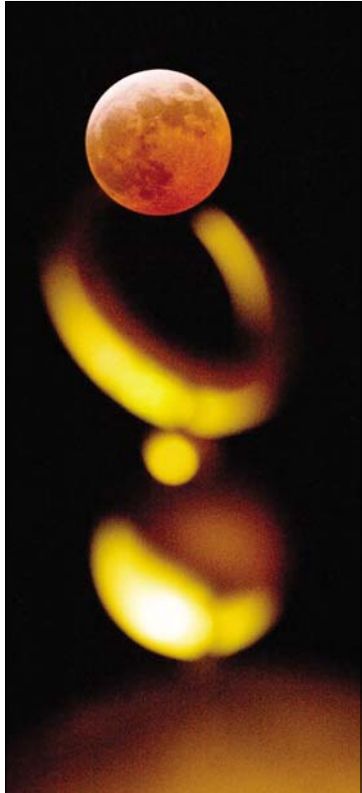
D.C. Councilmember Marion Barry holds still as he's measured with calipers by a sculptor from Madame Tussauds wax museum, which opened in D.C. in October. Barry's likeness is one of 50 wax sculptures on display. ROXANNE ROBERTS/THE WASHINGTON POST



TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR

Natalie Ragnati, left, and Amy Goldsmith comfort each other near a memorial for Redskins safety Sean Taylor at Redskins Park in Ashburn, Va. Taylor died Nov. 27 after being shot during a home invasion. KEVIN WOLF/AP

AFTERIMAGE 2007



THE RIGHT STUFF

Astrophysicist Stephen Hawking floats aboard a zero-gravity jet. The almost-entirely paralyzed scientist called the experience the first step toward his dream of space travel. ZERO GRAVITY CORP/AP



MOON SHOT

The Earth's shadow passes over the moon, as seen behind the crescent atop the minaret of Birmingham Central Mosque in Birmingham, England, in the first total lunar eclipse in three years on March 3. CHRISTOPHER FURLONG/GETTY IMAGES



CUTE KNUT

Knut, the abandoned polar bear cub that was rescued by the Berlin Zoo, rolls in the sand during his first public appearance on March 3. In a challenge to Tai Shan's reign of cuteness, Knut drew more than 2 million visitors to the zoo in 2007. FRANKA BRUNS/AP



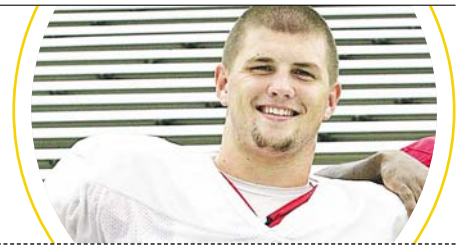
COMEBACK KIDS

Willemstad, Curacao's Dennis Gustina celebrates after teammate Deion Rosalia hit the game-winning three-run home run in the seventh inning to defeat Maracaibo, Venezuela, 4-2, during the international semifinals of the 2007 Little League World Series. CAROLYN KASTER/AP

Weekend ^{Sports}

TERPS FOOTBALL

Going Bowling: Senior lineman Andrew Crummey is back from injury and ready to lead the Terps in the Emerald Bowl on Friday. | 21



The Last Line Is Defense

'D' is back to old form, and Redskins are on the cusp of the playoffs

REDSKINS | In a season of giving, the Redskins are taking away others' playoff dreams.

Washington's defense enters Sunday afternoon's game against Dallas on a thieving spree, posting a plus-5 turnover margin in its last three games, all victories. In the process, Washington has leaped New Orleans and Minnesota and is poised to make the playoffs if it can beat the Cowboys at home.

The defense-fueled win streak is reminiscent of 2005, and the iconic image of Gibbs' second stint in Washington, when the late Sean Taylor ran back a fumble for a



WIN AND IN: The Redskins' defense stops Tony Richardson for a safety in the first quarter of last week's win over the Vikings.

this year, but it can certainly be lauded for the strong play against Minnesota last week, when the defense limited the Vikings to 87 rushing yards. Before that, the defense held the Giants to 10 points on a blustery night in the Meadowlands. And it kept the speedy Devin Hester in check despite Chicago trying to get him the ball every way possible.

"We had three takeaways [against Minnesota] which is really one of the big keys to the last three

games," coach Joe Gibbs said.

Dallas' NFC-best offense won't be arriving in great shape, either. Cowboys coach Wade Phillips expects center Andre Gurode to be out, along with WR Terrell Owens, who sprinted past the Redskins secondary for four touchdowns in a 28-23 Dallas victory on Nov. 18.

"That was our first go-around with Reed [Doughty] and LaRon [Landry] back there," Gibbs said. "I think we are definitely playing

better now."

Even without Owens, the Redskins' defense will have to handle tailbacks Marion Barber and Julius Jones, who they held to 70 yards on 24 carries in the first meeting.

Though Cowboys QB Tony Romo has thrown for 4,125 yards and 36 touchdowns, he's also tossed 18 picks. A few mistimed throws into the teeth of a hot Redskins defense could lead to one of those Taylor moments, a potentially fitting trib-

Three Burning QUESTIONS

1 Still on the warpath? Todd Collins has done well maintaining possession and making smart decisions since taking over as the starting quarterback. Turnovers could be huge Sunday.

2 A good push? The Redskins' offense seems to have found its strength up front the last two weeks, gaining more than 100 yards on the ground against two solid defenses.

3 Who's motivated? The Cowboys are locked in as the No. 1 seed in the NFC, so they have nothing to gain by winning Sunday. Meanwhile, the Redskins will be throwing everything they can at Dallas to win the rivalry game and make the post-season for the second time in the last three years.

ute to their fallen teammate after an arduous regular season.

"For us, the whole year boils down to one game," Gibbs said. "You are playing against somebody that won 13 games and is one of the real talented teams in the NFL. ... It is going to be a huge challenge for us."

ERIC BRANDNER



touchdown against Philadelphia to seal the Redskins fifth-straight victory and a trip to the playoffs.

Washington (8-7) has not had that kind of signature season-turning play

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OUR '07 PICKS**Ian Herbert**EXPRESS
SPORTS
EDITOR**BEST ATHLETE**
Roger Federer**BEST MOMENT**
Iraqi soccer team wins Asian Cup**MOST OVERHYPED**
Beckham is the obvious choice**BIGGEST LOSER**
Cycling fans after this year's Tour de France**BIGGEST SURPRISE**
Appalachian State — losing two games in Division I-AA**WORST MOMENT**
Sean Taylor dies from gunshot wound**NEXT SUPERSTAR**
Michael Beasley: this year's Durant**BEST LOCAL MOMENT** Tiger Woods announces his D.C. tournament**BEST LOCAL ATHLETE** D.C. United's Luciano Emilio**OVERHYPED LOCAL ATHLETE** Maryland guard Greivis Vasquez**BIGGEST LOCAL LOSER** United flames out in the playoffs — again**BIGGEST LOCAL SURPRISE** Roy Hibbert returns to Hoyas without Jeff Green**BEST STAT** Tim Tebow scored seven TDs versus South Carolina**7 Moments That Define '07**

In a year that started with a miracle and ended with a tragedy, it's hard to narrow down the list of defining moments. There was Boise State's Statue of Liberty (and subsequent marriage proposal), and Sean Taylor's tragic death. Barry Bonds hit his record-breaking 756th home run, and the George Mitchell report accused 80 of our baseball heroes of cheating. Here, then, in no particular order, is a look at seven reasons sports fans will remember 2007. **IAN HERBERT (EXPRESS)**

Sean Taylor, in Memoriam

No matter how far the Redskins go this season, Washington fans will likely remember this year for the tragic death of Sean Taylor. In the middle of the best season of his short career, the 24-year-old safety was shot in his home and died the next day. He was later elected to be a starter in the Pro Bowl (for the first time in his career). Years from now, people will likely think back to 2007 and wonder: How good could he have been?

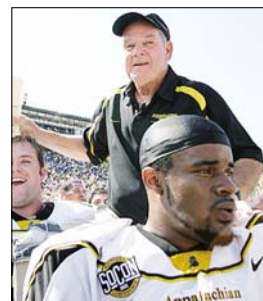
**Finally Four-tunate**

A season that celebrated 100 years of Georgetown basketball saw the Hoyas make it back to Final Four for the first time since the days of John Thompson Jr. and Patrick Ewing Sr. Fittingly, it was coach John Thompson III — using that “Princeton b*****,” as his father likes to say — and Patrick Ewing Jr. who played key roles in the March run, which also included the Big East championship. The stars of the team, though, were Roy Hibbert, who is back for another run

in his senior season, and Big East Player of the Year Jeff Green, who made the jump to the NBA after returning a once-great program to national prominence. Nationally, the focus may have been on Greg Oden and Kevin Durant, but locally, the Hoyas were the toast of the town.

**Boston's Massacre**

The Red Sox won the bidding war for Japanese star Daisuke Matsuzaka to start the year, had a rookie pitch a perfect game in the middle of the season and, of course, won the World Series (in a sweep, no less). The Patriots, well, we all know they're good. On Saturday the team will try for the first 16-0 regular season in NFL history as Tom Brady and Randy Moss chase individual records. The Celtics put together a fantasy team and have the best record in the NBA, and even the Bruins are playing well (though no one cares about that). No one likes a showoff, so maybe this will be remembered as the year when the world turned against Boston.

**A Bit Upsetting**

Less than a day into 2007, Boise State pulled off a Fiesta Bowl miracle, completing a hook-and-ladder on fourth down to keep their hopes alive and then beating Oklahoma with a “Statue of Liberty” play on a two-point conversion in overtime. That was just the beginning. The first weekend of the 2007 season brought the biggest upset ever: Appalachian State over Michigan in Ann Arbor, pictured. A few weeks later, 41-point underdog Stanford knocked off USC. Plus, 10 different teams were ranked in the top-2, Ohio State made the national title game again after losing its Heisman trophy winner, and Florida's Tim Tebow became the first sophomore to win the Heisman.

On the Prowl in D.C.

Hundreds of people filled an auditorium to hear Tiger Woods announce he was bringing a tournament to Washington. And that was two months before any golf was played. When the tournament started over July 4 weekend — shortly after Woods became a father — it was hot, but, unlike other local tourneys (think Kemper and Booz Allen), all the big names showed up when Tiger called. By then, the hundreds of fans turned into thousands.

**On the Record***

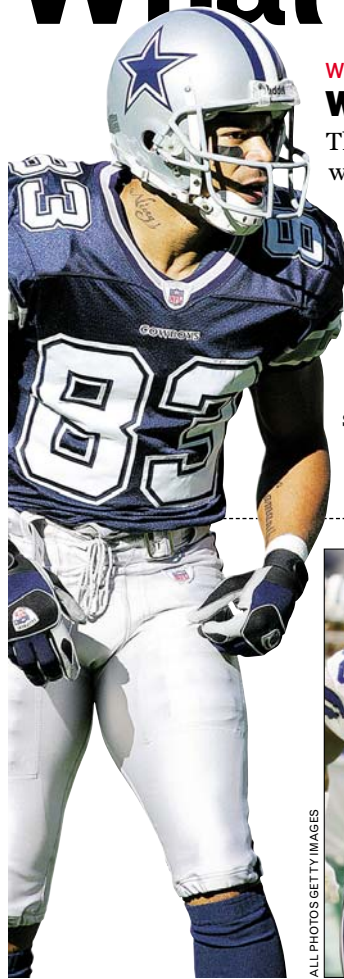
Barry Bonds' march to 756 was marred by doping allegations and astericks, but the San Francisco slugger took hold of one of baseball's most coveted records this summer. Bonds is now on trial for perjury related to steroids, but he's no longer alone. Former Sen. George Mitchell's long-awaited report on the state of steroids in baseball named more than 80 names, most notably seven-time Cy Young winner Roger Clemens. A scarlet letter on baseball or the turning point for a sport that's been tainted for years? Time will tell.

A Dog-Eat-Dog World

It's barely a sports moment — unless you consider dogfighting a sport — but Michael Vick's arrest for running a dogfighting ring dominated the sports pages for a good chunk of the year. Earlier this month, Vick was sentenced to 23 months in prison, meaning the quarterback who was once one of the NFL's greatest athletes won't play pro football again for at least two years — if ever.

OUR '07 PICKS**Matt Swenson**EXPRESS
SPORTS
COLUMNIST**BEST ATHLETE**
Tom Brady**BEST MOMENT**
Boise State beats Oklahoma in the Fiesta Bowl**MOST OVERHYPED**
David Beckham**BIGGEST LOSER**
The NBA's betting ref, Tim Donaghy**BIGGEST SURPRISE**
The Dolphins winning a game**WORST MOMENT**
Barry Bonds being indicted in his steroids case**NEXT SUPERSTAR**
Darren McFadden once he hits the NFL**BEST LOCAL MOMENT**
Hoyas return to the Final Four**BEST LOCAL ATHLETE**
Sean Taylor**OVERHYPED LOCAL ATHLETE**
Alexander Semin: He's got nothing on the Caps' other Alex**BIGGEST LOCAL LOSER**
Gilbert Arenas: Knee injury cuts short two seasons**BIGGEST LOCAL SURPRISE**
The Nats staying out of the cellar**BEST STAT**
30-3: The score of the Rangers' historic rout of the Orioles

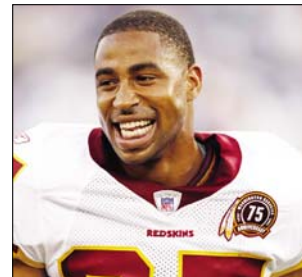
What to Watch For



WHEN THE COWBOYS HAVE THE BALL:

WR Terry Glenn vs. CB Fred Smoot

The Cowboys haven't said who will start and who will sit for their meaningless game against the Redskins. But we know this much: Terrell Owens, who torched the Redskins for four touchdowns in the teams' first meeting this year, will not play. Terry Glenn, a 12-year veteran, has missed the entire season after undergoing knee surgery, but he has practiced at full speed this week. Fred Smoot, meanwhile, has stepped up since Carlos Rogers went down with a knee injury. He shut down the Giants' Plaxico Burress two weeks ago and returned an interception to inside the 10-yard line last week at the Vikings.



WHEN THE REDSKINS HAVE THE BALL:

RB Clinton Portis vs. LB Bradie James

You think Clinton Portis wants to win? The Redskins running back has gone for more than 100 total yards in each of the last three weeks — all victories in must-win scenarios. The last time the Redskins played Dallas, however, Portis had one of his worst games of the year, rushing for 36 yards on 12 carries and catching two balls for nine yards. Bradie James is not the Cowboys' biggest defensive playmaker — that award goes to DeMarcus Ware — but he is the team's leading tackler and an all-around steady player. He plays behind a disruptive defensive line, and the Redskins will have to find a way to put a block on him if they want to run the ball. IAN HERBERT (EXPRESS)



ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Sunday PICK'EM

Matt Swenson
SPORTS COLUMNIST,
EXPRESS

Ian Herbert
SPORTS EDITOR,
EXPRESS

Jon DeNunzio
SPORTS EDITOR,
WASHINGTONPOST.COM

Dave Goldberg
SPORTS WRITER,
ASSOCIATED PRESS



COWBOYS (PLUS 9) AT REDSKINS

REDSKINS
One team has everything to play for. The other has nothing to play for.

REDSKINS
The Redskins were able to beat the 'Boys at home last year when they were bad.

COWBOYS
All signs point to an easy win and a playoff berth. I say, only the latter comes through.

REDSKINS
This spread assumes that the Cowboys will sit a lot of starters. Washington won't.



TITANS (MINUS 6) AT COLTS

TITANS
Never bet against Vince Young, especially when Manning will play only a half.

COLTS
The Titans haven't won by double digits since Week 9. The Colts will keep it close.

COLTS
Vegas figures the Colts don't care what happens here. Neither do I.

TITANS
The Colts were favored. Then, Dungy said Manning won't play more than a half.



PATRIOTS (MINUS 13.5) AT GIANTS

PATRIOTS
The Giants are a much better team on the road than they are at home.

PATRIOTS
There's no way the Patriots let New York get close to their record season.

PATRIOTS
New England will cover if you're watching simulcast on CBS, but not on NBC.

PATRIOTS
Figure New England to jump off to a 20-point lead and then start substituting.



VIKINGS (MINUS 3) AT BRONCOS

VIKINGS
Exactly when did the Broncos turn into the awful team that they are now?

BRONCOS
The Broncos are terrible, but the word is out on how to beat the Vikings: Stop the run.

VIKINGS
I'd like to hear a good reason to pick the non-run-defending Broncos here.

VIKINGS
The Vikings probably blew their chance last week.



STEELERS (MINUS 3.5) AT RAVENS

STEELERS
A horrible season ends on an appropriately low note for the Ravens.

STEELERS
The Ravens go for 10 straight losses to end the year. What a disappointment.

RAVENS
Steelers lose this one just to cheese off the Browns.

STEELERS
Incentive is getting the third seed in the AFC to avoid Jacksonville.

SEASON TALLY | Matt Swenson: 37-31-4; Ian Herbert: 31-42-4; Celebs: 30-30-4; Dave Goldberg: 30-32-2; Leader: Mark Plotkin (4-1)

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TV Lineup



JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Everyone knows about the Pats, but Vince Young's game is more important.

saturday

NOON Wisconsin travels to No. 9

Texas to play the Longhorns in men's college basketball. ESPN2

8 P.M. The Patriots go for their undefeated season at New York against the Giants. NFL Network/CBS

sunday

4:15 P.M. The Ravens' once-promising season comes to a close against the Steelers, who will try to hand Baltimore its 10th-straight loss. Of course, everyone will be watching the Redskins. CBS

8 P.M. The Titans are in the playoffs if they win against the Colts — and they're out if they lose. No pressure, Vince Young. NBC

Comeback Crummey

Terps lineman is fully recovered and ready to prove it in bowl game

TERPS FOOTBALL | Sidelined with a fractured fibula and unable to do anything to speed the healing process, Andrew Crummey was helpless in his bid to complete his senior season at Maryland.

"The toughest part was for about four weeks I couldn't do anything. I couldn't make myself better," Crummey said. "All I could do is let it heal. It's frustrating because when you play, you're used to doing what you need to do to get better. I couldn't really do that."

Crummey broke his left leg against Georgia Tech on Oct. 6. He was initially told that he would have to undergo season-ending surgery, but a further examination determined that an operation was not necessary. His goal was to return for the regular-season finale against North Carolina State.

"The highlight of the season for me was to see him come back and play as well as he did," wide receiver Isaiah Williams said.

After playing in the first half of Maryland's 37-0 victory over the



CHRIS GARDNER/AP

Andrew Crummey, bottom, is excited to get a chance to show scouts he's fully healed.

Wolfpack, Crummey gets the opportunity to finish his college career in the Emerald Bowl on Friday. Helping Maryland (6-6) beat Oregon State is his top priority, but the 6-foot-5, 300-pounder also wants to show the NFL scouts he's completely over the injury and ready to complete at a higher level.

Crummey, who last week was selected third-team All-America by The Associated Press, probably doesn't have the patience to wait four months to find out his future. The odds are he will find something to keep himself busy, just as he did while waiting for his injured leg to heal. DAVID GINSBURG (AP)

HOLIDAYS ARE FOR BOWLING

→ Champs Sports Bowl

Boston College vs. Michigan State

Dec. 28, 5 p.m., ESPN

At one point, the Eagles thought they'd be playing on New Year's.

→ Texas Bowl

TCU vs. Houston

Dec. 28, 8 p.m., NFL Network

NFL Network for a college game? Probably so no one will watch it.

→ Emerald Bowl

Maryland vs. Oregon State

Dec. 28, 8:30 p.m., ESPN

Injuries nearly ruined the Terps.

→ Meineke Car Care Bowl

UConn vs. Wake Forest

Dec. 29, 1 p.m., ESPN

This is the best year ever for UConn.

→ AutoZone Liberty

UCF vs. Mississippi State

Dec. 29, 4:30 p.m., ESPN

UCF's Kevin Smith ran for 29 TDs.

→ Valero Alamo Bowl

Penn State vs. Texas A&M

Dec. 29, 8 p.m., ESPN

Coaches are the focus of this one.

→ PetroSun Independence

Alabama vs. Colorado

Dec. 30, 8 p.m., ESPN

Both teams are 6-6. Blah.

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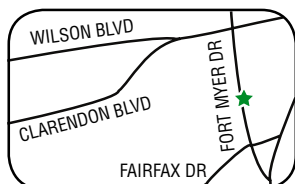
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ACMA-EXAGO

Swengali

REDSKINS | BY MATT SWENSON, MATT.SWENSON@READEXPRESS.COM

Redskins Need, Deserve a Win

RARELY HAVE I BEEN SO SURE of a Redskins victory, especially given the importance of Sunday's game against the Dallas Cowboys.

Maybe it's that Terrell Owens is injured and Tony Romo is doubtful to play even a half. (Not that ex-Redskin and current Cowboys backup Brad Johnson wouldn't mind nailing the Danny one last time for the Jeff George fiasco).

Maybe it's that the Redskins are on such a roll. They really are playing excellent football. Maybe it's confidence in Todd Collins. Who'd ever guess I'd write that sentence?

Mostly, though, I don't think I can bear the thought of Washington losing.

Forget the clichés sportscasters have used and will continue to toss out there in advance of this week's game, the Redskins really have overcome so much.

Losing this close to clinching a playoff spot seems cruel.

There have been injuries to star linemen Jon Jansen and Randy



Todd Collins, right, and Clinton Portis have won three straight big games.

Thomas, quarterback Jason Campbell, linebackers Marcus Washington (thankfully back in the lineup) and Rocky McIntosh and cornerback Carlos Rogers. Even WRs Santana Moss and Antwaan Randle El haven't been healthy much.

Little more needs to be said about Sean Taylor's murder and its impact on the team, yet let's not also forget that Shawn Springs' father is in a coma.

If ever fate — or destiny or the three-lettered "G" word — owes one to a group, it's the Redskins.

No one is asking for a playoff victory (yet). Just give us a win over the Cowboys.

Youngsters Play Lead Roles in D.C.

REDSKINS | Stephon Heyer knew the book on him back in July.

Undrafted rookie from Maryland. Has potential, but very raw. Outside shot at making team. Will need a year or two of grooming before he could be trusted to protect the quarterback in a regular season NFL game. Now, as December comes to an end, Heyer is the right tackle for the Redskins, a team on the cusp of a playoff berth.

The Redskins' three-game winning streak that has revived the season, but it is even more noteworthy when considering the cast of players with less than two years of experience filling key roles.

→ Anthony Montgomery has committed himself to being a pro and has been a starter since camp.

→ Sometimes lined up next to Montgomery is Kedric Golston, who got his first career safety in last week's win over Minnesota

→ Rookie LaRon Landry was expected to make a quick impact as the No. 6 overall pick, but he had to switch from strong safety to free safety to fill Sean Taylor's spot.

Others worth noting are safety Reed Doughty, who entered the lineup at strong safety when Landry moved to free safety, sixth-round draft pick H.B. Blades and second-year kicker Shaun Suisham.

"A lot of young guys," Fred Smoot said with a smile. "Somebody's going to go down; you're going to have to depend on guys to step up and make plays. That's how stars are found."

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

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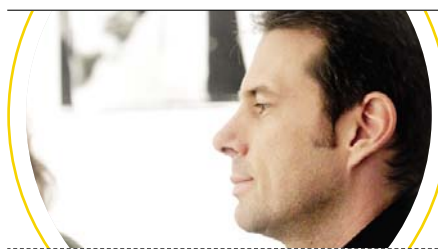
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**NEW YEAR'S EVE**

Later, '07: Get yourself some plans to send it out in style, such as dancing to Eric Hilton's funky grooves at 18th Street Lounge. | **24**

Entertainment Weekend



WHO GOT THE HOOCH? Jonah Hill, center, and Michael Cera, right, inspect the fake ID on which their whole night depends in Judd Apatow's comedy of errors "Superbad." MELISSA MOSELEY

Year of the Geek

Some might call it the year of the troubled pop star with the hit song (think Brit, think Winehouse). Or the year that the Coen Brothers returned to us in all their pulpy, suspenseful, darkly humorous glory. Or, lest we forget, the year that left us with nothing but stale reruns on our TV screens. But to us, 2007 was, above all else, the year of lovable, geeky filmmaker Judd Apatow. From the five different types of chairs in "Knocked Up" to "Superbad's" McLovin, the 25-year-old Hawaiian organ donor, to John C. Reilly walkin' hard in "The Dewey Cox Story," Apatow has had a hand in it all. Thanks, Judd, for giving us something other than "Evan Almighty" to chuckle at in '07.

film

1. Dude to Which We Owe Our Hardest Laughs of 2007

Judd Apatow for "Knocked Up," "Superbad" and "Walk Hard: The Dewey Cox Story."

2. Film That Reassured Us Most That the Coen Brothers Still Got It

"No Country for Old Men."

3. Film That Best Confirms Newer Episodes of "The Simpsons" Suck:

"The Simpsons Movie."

4. Least Repulsive Display of Fine French Cuisine and a Rodent in Close Quarters

"Ratatouille."

5. Film With the Most Horrific Eddie-Murphy-in-a-Fat-Suit Character to Date

"Norbit."

6. Film That Made the Makers of the "Ocean's II" Trilogy the Greenest

With Envy

"The Bourne Ultimatum"

7. Least Negative Portrayal of Premarital, Unprotected Sex and Teenage Pregnancy

"Juno."

8. Most Uncomfortable-Yet-Badass Nude Knife Fight in the Shower Scene:

"Eastern Promises."

9. Most Successful Onscreen Relationship

Lars and Bianca in "Lars and the Real Girl."

10. Film that Hammered the Largest Nail in Lindsay Lohan's Career's Coffin

"I Know Who Killed Me."

music

1. Best Hit Single Recorded During



Lunch at a Child Custody Hearing

Britney Spears' "Gimme More."

2. Most Love-Stoned Artist

Justin Timberlake.

3. Most Awkwardly Autobiographical Song

Amy Winehouse's "Rehab."

4. Best Album That Can Be Purchased Online for \$20, 4 British Pounds, or Nothing at All

Radiohead's "In Rainbows."

5. Most Bizarre-But-Yet-It-Works! Collaboration

Alison Krauss and Robert Plant's "Raising Sand."

6. Hit Most Likely to Cause Drunk People to Sing "Ella, Ella, Ella, Eh, Eh, Eh" Off-Key and in Public

Rihanna's "Umbrella."

7. Most Indistinguishable Singles

Daughtry's "Over You," Daughtry's "It's Not Over" and Daughtry's "Home."

8. Most Inconsequential Album Sales Battle

Kanye West's "Graduation" vs. 50 Cent's "Curtis."



television

1. Best Acting, Writing and Directing For a Series That 3-4 People Tune in to Watch Each Week

"Friday Night Lights."

2. Series With the Most Spoiled, Hormonal and Unlikable Characters

"The OC." Just kidding. "Gossip Girl."

3. Most Painfully Awkward Series to Watch With Your Parents, Children, Significant Others or Friends

"Tell Me You Love Me."

4. Most Musical Show Specializing in Songs Encouraging Women to Apply for Part-Time Modeling Jobs

"Flight of the Conchords."

5. Most Provocative Series Title, in That It Exposes Our Inner-Most Desires

"Dirty Sexy Money."

6. Strike That Most Abruptly Disrupted Seasons of All Our Favorite Shows and Made This Column Difficult to Write

Writer's Guild of America Strike.

KARMAH ELMUSA (EXPRESS)

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Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ
HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

NEW YEAR'S EVE

There's less than a week to go before New Year's Eve, and if you haven't made plans yet — or you've found your plans have changed — there are still plenty of options out there. It all comes down to what kind of atmosphere you want and what you're willing to pay.

Let's start with those all-inclusive big-ticket parties that bring thousands of revelers into ballrooms across the city. As of Wednesday, it was still possible to get into the party at the Embassy of Italy, which promises wine tasting, opera, dancing and classic films; the final night at the Hotel Washington, with multiple bars and that famous view of the White House from the rooftop Sky Terrace; and Scythian's annual masquerade ball at the former City Museum, with multiple live bands and magicians entertaining the masked crowd. In terms of big dance clubs, it's hard to ignore the appeal of Five, which, for \$70 in advance, has DJs from 8 p.m. to 5 a.m., an open bar until 2, food and giveaways.

On the other end of the spectrum are the free or no-cost nights that are designed for those who don't want to rent a tux, don't want to spend three bills on admission and do want to avoid supersized crowds (realizing that they're not going to get their \$75 cover charge



BIG HASSLE RECORDS

HAIL TO THE THIEF: Ring in the New Year with Eric Hilton of Thievery Corporation.

worth at the open bar). Those folks should look at this list of free parties. I like the sound of DJ Meistro's Dirty Bombs mix of reggae and hip-hop at Wonderland, DJ DK's funky party jams at Cafe Saint-Ex and honky-tonk singer Ty Brad-dock at Austin Grill. Or, arrive early (before 9 p.m.) at Cobalt for DJs spinning the best of the last three-and-a-half decades.

Stetson's, Buffalo Billiards, Galaxy Hut and Aroma are among the bars observing a business-as-usual approach. Kirkpatrick's is offering karaoke as well as a DJ, and at Topaz Bar both signature cocktails and appetizers are half-price. Napoleon has DJs spinning dance music and plenty of champagne options for your midnight toast. There's not a cover charge in sight.

The middle ground is full of bars and clubs offering mid-priced admission — let's say less than \$50 — without much in the way of open bars, but there's still much to consider. Eric Hilton of the

world-renowned Thievery Corporation and Eighteenth Street Lounge Records artist Federico Aubele are DJing in the main room at the Eighteenth Street Lounge (Aubele in 2007, Hilton in 2008), with a jazz band upstairs. While it's a pricey ticket at \$50, it won't be as over-packed as many parties around town. Gua-Rapo also has a pair of DJs (007 and Ruben) spinning house and international music, but the Arlington lounge's \$40 cover includes two hours of free food. DJ Harry Hotter of Love is spinning hip-hop at Gallery, where the \$25 cover includes an hour of free drinks and a midnight toast. The Black Cat offers a choice between the retro sounds of Peaches O'Dell and Her Orchestra on the main-stage and Mark Zimin of the ever-popular Mousetrap Britpop night on the club's backstage.

Tommy Joe's isn't trendy or fancy, but with a \$20 cover, you get dancing to a DJ and \$3.50 drinks all night. At DC9's Liberation Dance Party, the club will buy your first drink before a night of Britpop, indie and electro music. Rocket Bar and Helix Lounge are both charging \$10 at the door, and while they don't have DJs or entertainment, both are offering drink specials to ease the pain.

Finally, this is your last chance to spend New Year's Eve at Dr. Dre's Taphouse. The Arlington landmark, which is closing in January, will charge \$25 at the door for a night of free appetizers, a midnight champagne toast, pool and darts.



TAMMY ARROYO/AP

THIS COULD BE YOU! Maybe not exactly, but you can party at St. Ex like this guy.

Get a full list of parties, shows and other New Year's Eve events around town at washingtonpost.com/cityguide



LOVELY COUPLE: Johnny Depp and Helena Bonham Carter star as twisted murderers in Tim Burton's "Sweeney Todd."

Now Playing

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG, 91 minutes) I suppose the justification for this iteration of the now-familiar tale of mild-mannered songwriter Dave Seville, who becomes father to Alvin and his buddies, Simon and Theodore, is new computer technologies. So this film features what look like living plush toys. It also features authentic human being Jason Lee's excessively mild posturing as Dave and David Cross's hammy over-acting as the record exec who wants to corrupt the boys. Compared with the wonders in "Beowulf" and "The Golden Compass," this film isn't much. But youngsters who love the shrieky singing and don't notice the tapioca of the story will probably get their money's worth. Parents: Bring ear-plugs. (SH)

ATONEMENT (R, 123 minutes) This film version of Ian McEwan's 2002 novel has achieved that to which every literary adaptation should aspire. It's 1935, and the Tallises have gathered for a quiet summer weekend. When Briony observes her beautiful sister, Cecilia (Keira Knightley), suddenly jump into a fountain while the caretaker's son, Robbie (James McAvoy), looks on, Briony doesn't see youthful impetuosity. She sees something forbidden and threatening, which is how she will read and report all that comes later.

Those events will take Briony, Cecilia and Robbie to World War II and even the present day, as that summer weekend reverberates in a series of excruciating twists. How fitting that a novel so devoted to the precision and passionate love of language be captured in a film that is simply too exquisite for words. (AH)

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R, 96 minutes) Mike Nichols' chronicle of congressman Charlie Wilson's crusade to ram funding through the House Appropriations Committee to supply arms to the Afghan mujaheddin in the early 1980s probably gets the Washington process better than any film since "Advise & Consent" in 1962. Charlie is played by Tom Hanks at his unchallenged but affable best. But the best thing about the film is the speed at which Nichols, from Aaron Sorkin's snarky script, moves the thing along and keeps the cracks wise. And with smart dialogue, Julia Roberts in a bikini and Russian helicopters going boom! It's also short! What's not to love? (SH)

ENCHANTED (PG, 107 minutes) This charming family comedy from Disney celebrates the princess cult it invented while skewering its most saccharin conventions. After an old-school animated opening sequence, replete with a singing maiden named Giselle, it turns into a live-action adventure in which Giselle, played by the winning Amy Adams, is banished by the prince's evil stepmother to — eek! — Manhattan. Giselle meets a divorce lawyer named Robert (Patrick Dempsey)

and his 6-year-old daughter. Giselle eventually overcomes Robert's wariness and cynicism, even as she's being pursued by her brave but dim Prince Charming (James Marsden). This is a rare comedy that will appeal to the whole family, as it indulges in all the dreams of fairytale romance while making a few 21st-century adjustments. (AH)

THE DIVING BELL AND THE BUTTERFLY (R, 112) In 1995, 43-year-old Jean-Dominique Bauby, the stylish, high-living editor of French *Elle* magazine, suffered a stroke and went into a coma, awaking 20 days later having lost his power of speech, able to move only his left eyelid. Bauby had all his mental faculties intact, and he decided to dictate his memoirs by blinking them out, letter by letter. Now Julian Schnabel has turned the book into a stunning film, starring Mathieu Amalric as Bauby. Thanks to Bauby's courageous and honest writing, and Schnabel's poetic interpretation, what could have been a portrait of impotence and suffering becomes a lively exploration of consciousness and a soaring ode to liberation. (AH)

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13, 117 minutes) Derived from the first book of Philip Pullman's trilogy, "His Dark Materials," this movie follows an adventurous girl named Lyra Belacqua (Dakota Blue Richards) as she rescues her friend and a bunch of other kids from a brainwashing laboratory in the Arctic Circle run by

Continued on page 26

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sense in the world that Todd Haynes decided to make a biopic using six actors to play the singer-songwriter. How better to capture a man who has spent a career inventing new personae? The resulting film is a fascinating experiment that, if the viewer is willing to surrender to Haynes's sometimes hermetic meditations on Dylan's life, heartily rewards the investment. Often using real-life vignettes and Dylan's own quotations as his jumping-off point, Haynes has delivered an absorbing, occasionally hallucinatory disquisi-

tion on how Dylan has brilliantly eluded his audience's projections. (AH)
JUNO (PG-13, 91 minutes) When whip-smart teenager Juno (Ellen Page) becomes pregnant, the unplanned result of a quick liaison with boyfriend Paulie (Michael Cera), she decides to find a home for her baby. She meets a seemingly slick and perfect yuppie couple (Jennifer Garner and Jason Bateman) who plan to give the child the life that Juno can't. Only superficially a teen comedy, the movie redounds with postmodern—but emotionally genuine—gravitas. What distinguishes it is its memorable banter among the characters, all of whom feel real. And let's not forget how funny



RETURNING THE FAVOR: Laura Linney cares for her elderly father in "The Savages."

the movie is, too. (DT)

THE KITE RUNNER (PG-13, 122 minutes) Khaled Hosseini's novel has been given the screen adaptation it richly deserves. Gorgeously filmed in California and China (which stands in for Afghanistan), the movie keeps things simple and elegant. Twelve-year-old Amir (Zekeria Ebrahimi) lives in a beautiful house. His best friend is Hassan (Ahmad Khan Mahmidzada), the family servant's son. As the boys do what boys do in Kabul, including flying kites, they are routinely bullied by kids of the privileged sect to which Amir belongs. It's after one of Kabul's cherished "kite fighting" tournaments that Hassan runs

Continued on page 28

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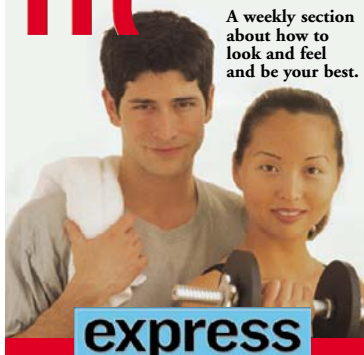
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Now Playing

Continued from page 27

afoul of some of those bullies, who brutally rape him. Amir looks on, and the ensuing shame will haunt him the rest of his life. For all the pain and loss, this is still a film of exhilarating, redemptive humanity, conveying enduring hope. (AH)

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG, 120 minutes) Benjamin Franklin Gates is a movie hero of the old school, a dashing treasure hunter with an obsessive interest in American history. Played by Nicolas Cage in the 2004



MODERATE FUN: "Book of Secrets" is enjoyable, but keep those expectations low.

hit "National Treasure," Gates emerged as a new kind of leading man, one with the brains of Stephen Ambrose and the brawn of Indiana Jones. Cage is back in crackling good form in this sequel, which finds Gates trying to disprove an unpleasant twist in his vaunted family history. It's clear that everyone involved in this movie is having fun, and with expectations properly managed, the audience will, too. (AH)

NO COUNTRY FOR OLD MEN (R, 120 minutes) Derived from the Cormac McCarthy novel of the same name, this high-end "literary" thriller traffics as much in ideas as in thrills, sometimes to its own detriment. It follows as a Vietnam vet (Josh

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Brolin) out antelope-hunting comes across a Texas drug deal gone bad. Bodies, guns, blood, flies and folly are everywhere on the arid plains. Each figure is given, a la standard thriller operating procedure, a single moral or psychological attribute and then acts in accordance to that principle and nothing else. It's meant to be "ironic," with that big capital I. Instead it's unsatisfying, with a capital U. (SH)

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG, 96 minutes) This film is being billed as a Christmas

movie featuring La Latifah in all her voluptuous, generous-spirited glory. But don't be fooled. This crass seasonal programmer features only enough of its nominal star to avoid being sued by baited-and-switched filmgoers. The film's real stars, Gabrielle Union and Morris Chestnut, instead bring every ounce of charm they have to bear on a hopelessly wan romantic comedy. o doubt Union and Chestnut have charm to burn. Here, she plays Nancy, a mother of three in the throes of divorcing a P. Diddy-like hip-hop impresario (Charles Q. Murphy). Chestnut plays Benjamin, a struggling songwriter who, while working as Santa Claus at a mall, sees Nancy and learns



NORMAN JEAN ROY/AP

Hillary Swank makes one of those blissfully happy faces in "P.S. I Love You."

from her little daughter that she is craving some male attention. Thus is the machinery set in motion to get Nancy and Benjamin together, force them apart, then get them together again in a script that hasn't been written as much as stamped out like so many cheap Christmas knickknacks that will be on the clearance shelf come Dec. 26. (AH)

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG-13, 126 minutes) In this dour romantic comedy, Hilary Swank is just-turned-30 Holly Kennedy, who's trying to recover from the death of her impossibly wonderful Irish husband, Gerry (Gerard Butler). Shortly after he dies, Holly receives the first of several postmortem missives sent by Gerry,

designed to help her work through her loss and get back on the happiness track. Swank tries to be endearingly bubbly with an energy that borders on Olympian, but she's just part of an endless (more than two hours) unfurling of Irish clichés and Hollywood-style faux sincerity. (DT)

THE SAVAGES (R, 113 minutes) Tamara Jenkins takes a frank look at the indignities of aging in this black comedy that invites viewers to laugh or at least smile ruefully at the dying of the light. Her focus is on a brother and a sister who, as somewhat aimless adults, must come to grips with the impending demise of the father who abandoned them as children.

Continued on page 32

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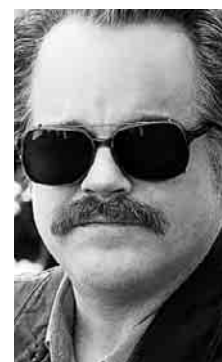
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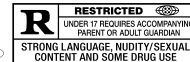
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NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★ (1030) 115
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) - ID REQ'D (1000 1215)
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (1030 1145 1245 215 300 430) 615 730 845 1030
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) (1115 1230 145 330 430) 615 730 845 1030
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ATONEMENT (R) - ID REQ'D (1045 145 445) 745 1045
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) - ID REQ'D (1000 115 400) 730 1015
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THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG) (1015 115 415) 700 945
JUNO (PG-13) (1145 230 515) 745 1015
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★ (1000) 1100
100 200 400 500 630 715 800 930 1015 1100
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) (1230 330) 645 745 945 1030
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (1115 1215 145 245 415 515) 700 915
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1130 215 445) 715 1000
P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG-13) (1000 1245 345) 645 930
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) - ID REQ'D (1115 130) 445 815 1045
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (1045) 1000
ENCHANTED (PG) (1015 1245 345)

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THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG) (1030 115 400) 645 930
ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2 (R) - ID REQ'D (1230 315 530) 815 1045
P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG-13) (1030 100 400) 700 1000
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1100 215 500) 745 1030
SWEENEY TODD (R) - ID REQ'D (1015 145 445) 730 1020
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) - ID REQ'D (1130 230) 515 800 1035
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★ (1000) 100
OC & DA: ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) 415 715 1030
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (145 415) 645 915
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) (1030 130 430) 700 800 945 1045
ATONEMENT (R) - ID REQ'D (1045 200 445) 730 1015
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (1015 1245 345) 630 915
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THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG) (1030 130 430) 720 955
ALIEN VS. PREDATOR 2 (R) - ID REQ'D (1200 220 450) 750 1005
P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG-13) (945 1235 330) 645 935
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R) - ID REQ'D ★ (1130 200 440) 735 1000 1220
SWEENEY TODD (R) - ID REQ'D (940 1225 320) 640 925 1200
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R) - ID REQ'D (1045) 800 1630
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG) ★ (930) 1220
100 315 400 630 710 920 1010 1205
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG) (950 1120 1210 150 320 415) 455 650 915 1150
I AM LEGEND (PG-13) (1045 115 350) 700 740 940 1020 1210
THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG-13) (1100) 945
JUNO (PG-13) (1055 120 355) 745 1015
ENCHANTED (PG) (140 410) 705

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**WATER HORSE:
LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG)**
11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20
**WALK HARD:
DEWEY COX STORY (R)**
12:10, 2:35, 5:10, 7:50, 10:10
ALIEN VS. PREDATOR: REQUIEM (R)
11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20

**NATIONAL TREASURE:
BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)**
12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:30
THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG-13)
12:30, 4:00, 7:30, 10:30
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)
11:40, 2:15, 4:50, 7:40, 10:20
I AM LEGEND (PG-13)
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)
1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35
THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG-13)
2:15, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50
**THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF
THE DEEP (PG)**
12:15, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50

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ATONEMENT (R)
2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50


P&G WHEATON 11 
Westfield Wheaton Mall 301-949-9201
301-949-9201 (I) denotes no passes
All shows before 6pm \$6.00


**NATIONAL TREASURE:
BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)**
12:05, 2:30, 5:05, 7:35, 9:55
CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R)
12:15, 3:40, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40
ALIEN VS. PREDATOR (R)
1:00, 3:30, 5:10, 7:30, 9:40
I AM LEGEND (PG-13)
12:20, 2:40, 5:00, 7:40, 9:55
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)
1:15, 3:15, 5:15, 7:25, 9:35
THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG-13)
2:15, 4:55, 7:25, 9:50
**THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF
THE DEEP (PG)**
12:15, 2:35, 5:00, 7:30, 9:50


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
AMC HOFFMAN CENTER 22
Eisenhower Ave and Telegraph Road in Alexandria
703-998-4AMC


DIGITAL PRESENTATION
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R)  (10:40 @ \$6), 12:00, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40, 12:10


ALIENS VS. PREDATOR - REQUIEM (R)  (10:15, 11:00 @ \$6), 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 4:45, 7:00, 7:45, 9:50, 12:25, 12:15


THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG13)  (10:00 @ \$6), 1:05, 4:15, 7:25, 10:30


THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG)  (10:55 @ \$6), 1:45, 10:05


CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R)  (10:10 @ \$6), 12:05, 12:50, 2:45, 4:05, 5:35, 7:05, 8:25, 9:45, 11:20, 12:20


NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)  (10:50 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:10, 4:10, 5:20, 7:20, 8:40, 10:00, 10:30, 12:00

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG13)  (11:35 @ \$6), 2:30, 5:25, 8:35, 11:30


WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R)  (12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:40)

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  (10:00, 11:10 @ \$6), 12:30, 1:50, 3:10, 4:40, 5:40, 7:40, 8:20, 10:10

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  (10:10 @ \$6), 1:50, 4:40, 7:40, 10:10


I AM LEGEND (PG13)  (10:30 @ \$6), 12:00, 1:30, 3:00, 4:30, 7:30, 9:00, 10:40, 11:50


THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13)  (11:30 @ \$6), 2:20, 5:10, 8:05, 11:00


ENCHANTED (PG)  (10:25 @ \$6), 1:15, 4:35, 7:15

THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13) 10:45 PM

AMC SELECT

JUNO (PG13)  (10:45 @ \$6), 1:35, 5:00, 7:55, 10:15

ATONEMENT (R)  (11:40 @ \$6), 2:35, 5:45, 8:45, 11:40

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET (R)  (10:20 @ \$6), 12:15, 1:25, 3:15, 4:25, 6:20, 7:35, 9:30, 10:55

THE KITE RUNNER (PG13)  (10:05 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:15, 7:25, 10:35

AMC COLUMBIA MALL 14
10300 Patuxent Parkway
703-998-4AMC

DIGITAL PRESENTATION
WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R)  (11:15 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30, 11:55

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR - REQUIEM (R)  (11:05 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:05, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30

THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG13)  (10:15 @ \$6), 1:15, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG13)  (10:15 @ \$6), 1:15, 4:20, 7:20, 10:20

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG)  (11:25 @ \$6), 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R)  (11:25 @ \$6), 2:15, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)  (10:30, 11:30 @ \$6), 1:30, 2:30, 4:35, 5:35, 7:40, 8:40, 10:45, 11:45

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG13)  (10:20 @ \$6), 1:05, 3:50, 6:40, 9:40

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  (11:20 @ \$6), 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10

I AM LEGEND (PG13)  (10:10 @ \$6), 12:40, 3:10, 5:45, 8:20, 10:55, 11:50

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13)  (11:00 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:25, 7:10, 9:50


ENCHANTED (PG)  (10:45 @ \$6), 1:25, 4:10, 6:50


AMC SELECT


JUNO (PG13) 12:25, 2:55, 5:30, 8:00, 10:30


SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET (R)  (11:35 @ \$6), 2:20, 5:15, 8:10, 11:05


AMC POTOMAC MILLS 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle, Ste 886
703-998-4262


DIGITAL PRESENTATION
NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)  12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30, 12:30


ALIENS VS. PREDATOR - REQUIEM (R)  (10:00 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:40, 4:55, 7:15, 9:45, 12:15


THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG13)  (10:45 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:40, 7:50, 10:50


THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG)  (11:05 @ \$6), 1:35, 4:15, 6:35, 9:10


CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R)  (10:40 @ \$6), 12:00, 1:15, 2:30, 4:10, 5:05, 6:45, 7:45, 9:35, 10:35, 12:05


NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)  (10:30 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30


P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG13)  (10:10 @ \$6), 1:05, 4:00, 7:05, 10:05

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R)  (10:15 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:05, 5:25, 7:55, 10:20, 12:40


ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  (10:15, 11:00 @ \$6), 12:40, 1:25, 2:50, 3:50, 5:10, 7:35, 10:10


ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  (11:00 @ \$6), 1:25, 3:50


I AM LEGEND (PG13)  (11:00 @ \$6), 1:25, 3:50


ENCHANTED (PG)  (11:15 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:50, 7:25

AMC SELECT

JUNO (PG13)  (10:55 @ \$6), 1:40, 4:25, 6:55, 9:20, 11:50

ATONEMENT (R)  (10:05 @ \$6), 1:00, 3:55, 6:50, 9:50

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET (R)  (10:20 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:00, 7:00, 9:55, 12:35

THE KITE RUNNER (PG13)  (10:25 @ \$6), 1:20, 4:20, 7:10, 10:25

AMC COURTHOUSE PLAZA 8
Courthouse and Birch Rd.
703-998-4AMC

THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG13)  (10:10 @ \$5), 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 10:10

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG)  (12:20, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:45)

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R)  (12:00, 2:40, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40)

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)  (10:30 @ \$5), 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG13)  (11:20 @ \$5), 2:10, 5:00, 7:50, 10:35

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  (10:00 @ \$5), 12:10, 2:30, 4:40, 6:50, 9:00

AMC SELECT

THE KITE RUNNER (PG13)  (10:20 @ \$5), 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:50

AMC SPRINGFIELD MALL 10
Loisdale and Franconia Road
703-971-3991

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR - REQUIEM (R)  (10:20 @ \$4), 12:30, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 10:00

THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG)  12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:20, 9:50

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R)  (12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00)

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)  (10:30 @ \$4), 1:30, 4:30, 7:45, 10:30

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG13)  (10:30 @ \$4), 1:15, 4:00, 7:15, 10:20

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R)  (10:00 @ \$4), 12:30, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  (10:00 @ \$4), 12:15, 2:45, 5:05, 7:20, 9:35

I AM LEGEND (PG13)  (10:15 @ \$4), 1:00, 3:30, 5:50, 8:15, 10:45

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13)  (10:45 @ \$4), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

ENCHANTED (PG)  (11:00 @ \$4), 1:30, 4:15, 7:00, 9:45

AMC TYSONS CORNER 16
7850 Tysons Corner Center
703-998-4262

DIGITAL PRESENTATION
THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG)  (11:00 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:20, 7:15, 9:50, 12:25

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR - REQUIEM (R)  (10:10 @ \$6), 12:50, 3:20, 5:50, 8:20, 10:50, 12:50

THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG13)  (10:25 @ \$6), 1:30, 4:35, 7:30, 10:35

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R)  (11:25 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:40, 7:35, 10:10, 12:45

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)  (10:05, 11:15 @ \$6), 1:00, 2:15, 4:00, 5:15, 7:10, 8:30, 10:20, 11:40

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG13)  (10:20 @ \$6), 1:10, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R)  (10:30 @ \$6), 12:55, 3:10, 5:35, 7:55, 10:25, 12:40

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  (10:00 @ \$6), 12:20, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:45, 12:10

I AM LEGEND (PG13)  (11:05 @ \$6), 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40, 10:55, 12:15

I AM LEGEND (PG13)  (11:05 @ \$6), 1:40, 4:15, 7:00, 9:40, 12:15

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13)  (11:10 @ \$6), 1:55, 4:45, 7:40, 10:30

ENCHANTED (PG)  (10:00 @ \$6), 12:30, 3:00, 5:45, 8:15

AMC SELECT

JUNO (PG13)  (10:15 @ \$6), 12:35, 2:55, 5:25, 8:05, 10:40

ATONEMENT (R)  (10:35 @ \$6), 1:20, 4:25, 7:20, 10:15

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET (R)  (10:45 @ \$6), 1:25, 4:45, 7:45, 10:30

THE KITE RUNNER (PG13)  (10:30 @ \$6), 1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:45

MAGIC JOHNSON CAPITAL CENTRE 12
800 Shopper's Way, Largo
301-324-4220

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR - REQUIEM (R)  (11:35 @ \$5), 12:35, 2:05, 3:05, 4:35, 5:35, 7:00, 8:00, 9:35, 10:25

THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG13)  (10:30 @ \$5), 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R)  (11:45 @ \$5), 2:15, 4:45, 7:10, 9:45

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)  (10:15 @ \$5), 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 10:15

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R)  (10:10 @ \$5), 12:20, 2:30, 4:45, 7:25, 9:55

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  (10:05 @ \$5), 12:15, 2:35, 5:05, 7:35, 10:00

I AM LEGEND (PG13)  (11:20 @ \$5), 12:25, 1:50, 2:50, 4:20, 5:20, 6:50, 7:50, 9:20, 10:20

THE PERFECT HOLIDAY (PG)  (10:20 @ \$5), 12:40, 2:55, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05

THIS CHRISTMAS (PG13)  (10:25 @ \$5), 1:25, 4:25, 7:20, 10:10

LOEWS RIO CINEMAS 18
9811 Washingtonian Boulevard
301-948-0906

DIGITAL PRESENTATION
THE WATER HORSE: LEGEND OF THE DEEP (PG)  (11:20 @ \$6), 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:10

ALIENS VS. PREDATOR - REQUIEM (R)  (10:25 @ \$6), 12:40, 3:00, 5:20, 7:50, 10:15, 12:35

THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG13)  (10:00 @ \$6), 12:50, 3:45, 6:50, 9:45, 12:35

THE GREAT DEBATERS (PG13)  (10:00 @ \$6), 12:50, 3:45, 6:50, 9:45, 12:35

CHARLIE WILSON'S WAR (R)  (10:40 @ \$6), 12:10, 1:25, 2:45, 4:10, 5:30, 6:55, 8:15, 9:50, 10:50, 12:10

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS (PG)  (10:30 @ \$6), 12:30, 1:30, 3:30, 4:30, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 10:30, 12:30

P.S. I LOVE YOU (PG13)  (10:10 @ \$6), 1:00, 3:50, 6:45, 9:35, 12:30

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R)  (10:00 @ \$6), 12:25, 2:55, 5:15, 7:40, 10:00, 12:20

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS (PG)  (10:50 @ \$6), 12:20, 1:15, 2:45, 3:25, 6:05, 8:25, 10:45

I AM LEGEND (PG13)  (11:10 @ \$6), 1:50, 4:20, 5:10, 7:05, 8:00, 9:40, 10:35, 12:15

THE GOLDEN COMPASS (PG13)  (10:55 @ \$6), 1:40, 4:05, 6:40, 9:20, 12:00

ENCHANTED (PG)  (11:00 @ \$6), 1:45, 4:35, 7:25, 10:10

AMC SELECT

JUNO (PG13)  (10:15 @ \$6), 12:45, 3:10, 5:35, 8:05, 10:40

ATONEMENT (R)  (10:35 @

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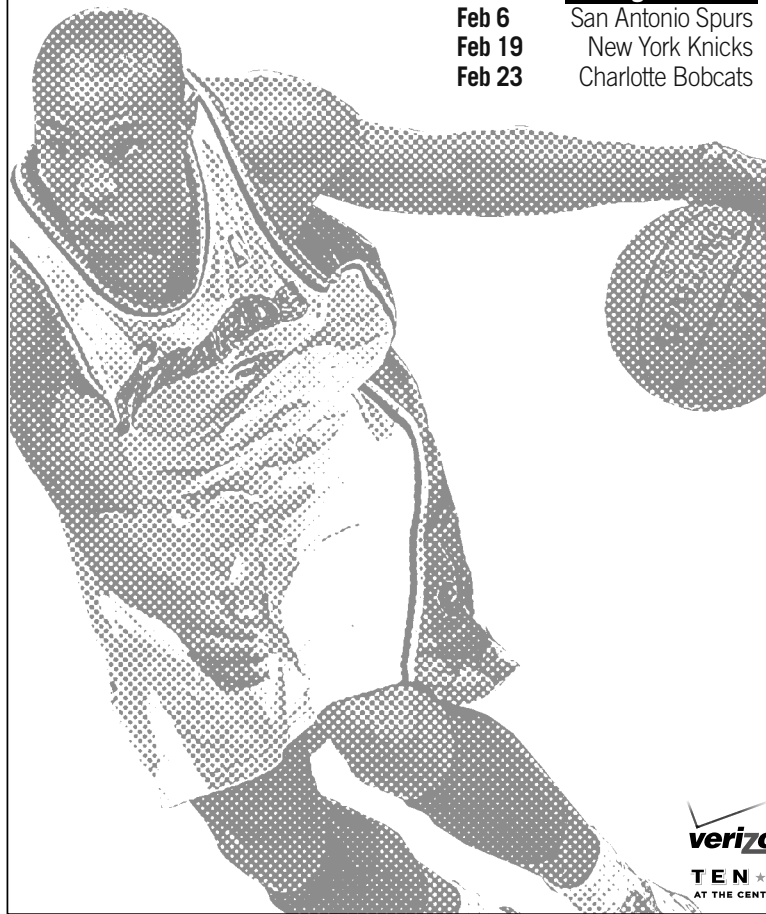
MUSICAL SATIRE: John C. Reilly is every tragic rockstar in faux biopic "Walk Hard."

New Year

Individual Tickets for February Home Games Go on Sale Dec. 31!

FEBRUARY HOME GAMES

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Feb 23	Charlotte Bobcats



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Now Playing

Continued from page 29

As written and directed by Jenkins, and acted by Laura Linney and Philip Seymour Hoffman (who play siblings Wendy and Jon Savage), the film becomes a wry exercise in truth-telling in the midst of otherwise unspeakable taboos. At some point, everyone should see this movie, if only for the inspiration it offers in how to make a functional whole out of imperfect parts. (AH)

SWEENEY TODD: THE DEMON BARBER OF FLEET STREET (R, 116 minutes) With oceans of gore, rivers of luscious musicality and a bravura performance by Johnny Depp redolent of malevolence and magnetism, Tim Burton brings Stephen Sondheim's 1979 musical to the screen with a visual style informed by a truly cinematic feel for Grand Guignol. The added marvel is that the director has crafted a version of a stage musical that completely honors the source without being slavishly devoted to it. And although most of the voices Burton employs to interpret the operatic songs belong to actors rather than to singers, Sondheim's music — some of the most exquisite he has ever composed — does not seem to suffer. PETER MARKS

THIS CHRISTMAS (PG-13, 117 minutes) The Whitfields are by any standards pros-

perous, and they can look with pride on what their progeny has accomplished. But such happiness is based on a compact by which each member agrees to avoid certain subjects. The movie chronicles a holiday season in which the subjects, at last, are not avoided. The result is a big, gushy, emotional, secret-driven, family-obsessive casserole, perhaps facile in some of its resolutions, but so full of good heart and love — the real kind, which is scratchy, awkward, difficult to express and doesn't conquer all — that the movie is difficult to resist. (SH)

WALK HARD: THE DEWEY COX STORY (R, 98 minutes) In this parody of the musical biopic, John C. Reilly plays the title character, a country boy who, as a small child, accidentally hacks his older, brighter brother in half with a machete, a trauma that makes him lose his sense of smell. The movie proceeds to skewer the most cherished tropes of Hollywood biopics, from stock scenes of Dewey succumbing to drugs and groupies to the inevitable backup singer who becomes his mistress. It all sounds good on paper, and there are some hilarious moments, but the movie manages to come up with only a few genuine gems. (AH)



REVIEWS BY THE WASHINGTON POST'S
ANN HORNADAY, STEPHEN HUNTER,
MICHAEL O'SULLIVAN, DESSON THOMSON
AND TERESA WILTZ. FOR MORE CAPSULES AND
FULL REVIEWS OF THESE AND OTHER FILMS, SEE
WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT



WAVE AND SMILE: “Entertainment Tonight” co-anchor Mark Steines has been selected to host the 83rd Miss America Pageant on Jan. 26. No doubt his job as a syndicated gossip has prepared him for the fake grins and vapid content.

Television

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

BETTER THAN EVAN
Jim Carrey and Morgan Freeman star in the 2003 fantasy **BRUCE ALMIGHTY** (8 p.m., Fox, Fri.), about a mortal endowed with divine powers for one week.

EFRON'S FACE SELLS
No roundup of the pop phenomena of 2007 can exclude the merchandising onslaught of **HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL 2** (8 p.m., Disney, Fri.).

FAKE ID'S
Border insecurities loom large in tonight's **DATELINE** (9 p.m., NBC, Fri.) special. Correspondent Stone Phillips takes a crew to Peru and other foreign capitals to demonstrate just how easy it is to acquire fake, doctored or just plain stolen passports, visas and other diplomatic paperwork.

JAMIE LYNN'S POSSE
A concerned mother (Marcia Gay Harden) discovers that her 14-year-old daughter and her friends are involved in casual sex in the 2004 TV drama **SHE'S TOO YOUNG** (9 p.m., Lifetime).

THE BRITISH HAVE ARRIVED!
THE CATHERINE TATE SHOW (9:20 p.m., BBC America, Fri.) returns for a second season. Very popular in the United Kingdom,



NEVER FEAR: If you missed “High School Musical 2,” here's a second chance.

Tate shows a talent for creating believable yet absurd characters that may remind some viewers of Tracy Ullman.

HUMOROUS MARKETING
Kevin Nealon gives us this year's **FUNNIEST COMMERCIALS** (10 p.m., TBS, Fri.).

GIVE US GIVE US MORE
BRITNEY SPEARS' FALL FROM GRACE (6 p.m., E!, Sat.) gets the “dumbest title of the week” award. From what great heights did she descend? Her career seems more like a languid wallow than a decline and fall.

THRILLING BRILLIANCE
Sundance invites viewers to spend the last Saturday night of 2007 with four films directed by Alfred Hitchcock: **MARNIE** (6 p.m.), **SHADOW OF A DOUBT** (8:10 p.m.), **ROPE** (10 p.m.) and **SABOTEUR** (11:30 p.m.).

IT'S BLACK, IT'S WHITE
David Strathairn stars as pioneering radio and TV journalist and commenta-

tor Edward R. Murrow in the 2005 historical biography **GOOD NIGHT AND GOOD LUCK** (8 p.m., CBS, Sat.).

CHRISTINA WHAT?
On four episodes of **SAMANTHA WHO?** (8 p.m., ABC, Sat.): amnesia (8 p.m.), back to work (8:30 p.m.), wedding crashers (9 p.m.), intimacy erased (9:30 p.m.).

GRIZZLY FOOD
An obsessive nature filmmaker wanders off into the Alaska wild and gets a little too close to his subject in director Werner Herzog's absorbing 2005 documentary **GRIZZLY MAN** (8 p.m., Animal Planet, Sat.).

BEFORE HE WAS DEWEY COX
John C. Reilly hosts a **SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE** (11:30 p.m., NBC, Sat.) repeat from 2006.

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE!
Julie Andrews, Christopher Plummer and the music of Rodgers and Hammerstein



GRIZZLY MAN VS. NATURE: Nature wins.

star in the 1965 musical **THE SOUND OF MUSIC** (7 p.m., ABC, Sun.).

AROUND THE WORLD
The globe-trotting continues on **AMAZING RACE** (8 p.m., CBS, Sun.).

LOVE FOR THE LORD
Filmmakers follow counselors and children as young as 6 in the documentary **JESUS CAMP** (10 p.m., A&E, Sun.). **KEVIN MCDONOUGH** (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

12.28.07	6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30	
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC ⁽⁴⁾	News (N) ^(CC)		NBC Nightly News	Redskins Report	The Singing Bee (N) ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	Dateline NBC (N) ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)				News (N) ^(CC)	Tonight Show	
	WTTG ⁽⁵⁾	News (N)	TMZ (N) ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	The Simpsons ⁽¹⁾	Seinfeld ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	★★ "Bruce Almighty" (2003) Jim Carrey, Morgan Freeman. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)			News (N)		News (N)	TMZ ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	
	WJLA ⁽⁷⁾	News (N) ^(CC)	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Men in Trees "Chemical Reactions"		Women's Murder Club ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	(:02) 20/20 (N) ^(CC)		News (N) ^(CC)	(:35) Nightline (N)	
	WUSA ⁽⁹⁾	News (N) ^(CC)	Evening News	News	Entertainment	Ghost Whisperer ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	Moonlight "Out of the Past" ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		NUMB3RS "Blackout" ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		News (N) ^(CC)	Late Show	
	WDCA ⁽²⁰⁾	Judge Judy (N) ⁽¹⁾	Judge Joe Brown	King of Queens	King of Queens	"Crossing Paths" (1998) Neal McDonough, Antonio Sabato Jr. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		To Be Announced		King of the Hill ⁽¹⁾	Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Gone"		
	WMPT ⁽²²⁾	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)		Business Rpt.	State Circle	Washington Week	NOW (N) ^(CC)	Bill Moyers Journal (N) ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	Walking the Bible ^(CC) (DVS)			Travels-Edge	Smart Travels
	WETA ⁽²⁶⁾	BBC World News		Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Washington Week	Inside Wash.	Bill Moyers Journal (N) ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	NOW (N) ^(CC)	Take the Day Off		Charlie Rose (N) ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	
WHUT ⁽³²⁾	White House	Tavis Smiley ⁽¹⁾	BBC World News	Moneywise	Eve. Exchange	To the Contrary	History Detectives ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	BBC World News		Tavis Smiley ⁽¹⁾	Charlie Rose (N) ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		
WDCW ⁽⁵⁰⁾	My Wife and Kids	Family Guy ^(CC)	Two/Half Men	Friends ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	WWE Friday Night SmackDown! (N) ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)			Family Guy ^(CC)	Friends ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		Two/Half Men	Sex and the City	
BASIC CABLE	A&E	Cold Case Files ^(CC)		CSI: Miami "Pirated" ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		CSI: Miami ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		CSI: Miami "Dispo Day" ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	CSI: Miami "Grave Young Men" ⁽¹⁾		CSI: Miami "Spring Break" ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		
	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter Diaries ^(CC)		Grizzly Diaries ^(CC)		Orangutan Island	Orangutan Island	2007: The Year in Animals	Animal Cops Houston ^(CC)		Orangutan Island	Orangutan Island	
	BET	College Hill ^(CC)	College Hill ^(CC)	College Hill ^(CC)		Road to Platinum	Road to Platinum	★★ "Next Friday" (2000, Comedy) Ice Cube, Mike Epps, Justin Pierce. ^(CC)			Hell Date ^(CC)	Hell Date ^(CC)	
	Bravo	AFI's 100 Years ... 100 Movies: 10th Anniversary Edition The top-100 movies of all time. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)						★★★ "Cold Mountain" (2003) Jude Law, Nicole Kidman. A Confederate soldier tries to reach his sweetheart. ^(CC)					
	Comedy	"The Naked Gun: Police Squad"		Scrubs ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	Scrubs ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	Scrubs ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	Brian Regan: Standing Up ^(CC)		Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Com.-Presents	Louis CK ^(CC)
	Court	World's Wildest Police Videos ^(CC)		Cops ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	Cops ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	Most Shocking		Forensic Files	Forensic Files	Dunne: Power, Privilege & Justice		24/24 Rule (Series Premiere) (N)	
	Discovery	Man vs. Wild "Panama" Panama.		Man vs. Wild "Jungle" Panama.		Man vs. Wild "Sahara" ^(CC)		Man vs. Wild Pacific Ocean.		Fight Quest "China" Kung fu in China.		Man vs. Wild "Jungle" ^(CC)	
	DISCH	Dr. G: Medical Examiner ^(CC)		Dr. G: Medical Examiner		Dr. G: Medical Examiner ^(CC)		Dr. G: Medical Examiner ^(CC)		Dr. G: Medical Examiner ^(CC)		Dr. G: Medical Examiner ^(CC)	
	Disney	★★ "High School Musical" (2006, Musical Comedy) Zac Efron. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)				"High School Musical 2" (2007) Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)				Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana
	E!	THS Hazing	The Soup	E! News (N)	The Daily 10 (N)	Saturday Night Live ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		Saturday Night Live ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		Soup Presents	Wildest Wed	E! News	Chelsea Lately
	FX	(5:30) ★★ "Girl, Interrupted" (1999, Drama) Winona Ryder, Angelina Jolie.						★★★ "I, Robot" (2004) Will Smith. A homicide detective tracks a dangerous robot in 2035.					
	HGTV	Extreme Homes	If Walls Could	House Worth?	House Hunters	Designed to Sell	Save My Bath	Decorating Cents	Fun Shui (N)	House Hunters	House Hunters	Get It Sold	Parents House
	Family	8 Simple Rules ⁽¹⁾	8 Simple Rules ⁽¹⁾	Grounded for Life	★★ "The Karate Kid" (1984, Action) Ralph Macchio, Noriyuki "Pat" Morita, Elisabeth Shue. ^(CC)				America's Funniest Home Videos ⁽¹⁾		The 700 Club ^(CC)		
	History	Mail Call ^(CC)	Our Generation	Engineering Disasters of the '70s	Shockwave ^(CC)		Shockwave (N) ^(CC)		Shockwave ^(CC)		Mysteries of Devil Triangles		
	Lifetime	Reba "The Feud"	Reba ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	Still Standing ⁽¹⁾	Still Standing ⁽¹⁾	Reba Bar brawl.	Reba ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	★★★ "She's Too Young" (2004) Marcia Gay Harden, Alexis Dziena. ^(CC)		Will & Grace ⁽¹⁾			
	MTV	A Shot at Love With Tila Tequila ⁽¹⁾		A Shot at Love With Tila Tequila ⁽¹⁾		A Shot at Love With Tila Tequila ⁽¹⁾		A Shot at Love With Tila Tequila ⁽¹⁾		Jackass ⁽¹⁾	Jackass ⁽¹⁾	Jackass ⁽¹⁾	Rob and Big
	NICK	Drake & Josh ⁽¹⁾	Drake & Josh ⁽¹⁾	Zoey 101 ^(CC)	Ned's School	Back, Barnyard	Avatar-Last Air	Tigre: Rivera	Full House ^(CC)	George Lopez ⁽¹⁾	George Lopez ⁽¹⁾	Home Improve.	Home Improve.
SCI FI	Stargate SG-1 "Gamekeeper" ⁽¹⁾		★★★ "The Nutty Professor" (1996) Eddie Murphy, Jada Pinkett. ^(CC)		★★★ "Elf" (2003, Comedy) Will Ferrell, James Caan, Bob Newhart.		★ "Tremors 4: The Legend Begins"						
SPIKE	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation ⁽¹⁾		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation ⁽¹⁾		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation ⁽¹⁾		UFC Unleashed ⁽¹⁾		UFC Fight Night ⁽¹⁾				
TBS	Friends ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Family Guy ^(CC)	Family Guy ^(CC)	Family Guy ^(CC)	Family Guy ^(CC)	Funniest Commercials: 2007		Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	
TLC	What Not to Wear Dog-sitter. ^(CC)		What Not to Wear "Valerie" ^(CC)		What Not to Wear "Laurie T." ^(CC)		What Not to Wear Philosophy student.		Fashionably Late With Stacy London		What Not to Wear Philosophy student.		
TNT	Law & Order "Narcosis" ⁽¹⁾		Law & Order "Star Crossed" ⁽¹⁾		★★ "The Replacements" (2000, Comedy) Keanu Reeves, Gene Hackman, Orlando Jones. ^(CC)		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit ⁽¹⁾		House "Hunting" ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		House "The Mistake" ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		
USA	Law & Order: Criminal Intent ^(CC)		Law & Order: Criminal Intent "Beast"		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit ⁽¹⁾		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit ⁽¹⁾		House "Hunting" ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		House "The Mistake" ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		
VHI	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Hogan Knows	Celebrity Fit Club "Men vs. Women"		
SPAN	TELEM	Los Plateados	Noti-Telemndo	12 Corazones		Madre Luna		Victoria	Pecados Ajenos		Noti-Telemndo	Titulares y Mas	
	UNIV	Que Locura	Noticiero Univ	Yo Amo a Juan Querendón (N)		Amar sin Limites (N)		Pasión	Familia-Luche	Retro P. Luche	Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.	
SPORTS	ESPN	(5:00) College Football Champs Sports Bowl -- Boston College vs. Michigan State. (Live) ^(CC)						College Football Emerald Bowl -- Maryland vs. Oregon State. From San Francisco. (Live) ^(CC)					
	ESPN2	SportsCenter (Live) ^(CC)		Billiards: Int'l Speed Pool Challenge		Billiards: Speed Pool Challenge		Boxing Friday Night Fights. Dominick Guinn vs. Robert Hawkins. (Live) ^(CC)		SportsCenter (Live) ^(CC)			
	CSN	College Basketball Delaware at Maryland. (Live)				SportsNite: A Year in Review		Best Damn Top 50 Special		SportsNite (Live) ^(CC)			
NEWS	CNN	(4:00) The Situation Room		Lou Dobbs Tonight ^(CC)		Rescuing Youssif		Larry King Live ^(CC)		Anderson Cooper 360 ^(CC)		CNN: Special Investigations Unit	
	FNC	Special Report ^(CC)		The Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor ^(CC)		Hannity & Colmes ^(CC)		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor	
	MSNBC	Tucker		Hardball ^(CC)		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Lockup: Holman		Lockup: Holman		Lockup: Holman (N)	
MOVIES	AMC	(5:00) ★★★ "The Dirty Dozen" (1967, War) Lee Marvin. 'NR' ^(CC)				★★ "Firefox" (1982, Action) Clint Eastwood. A Vietnam-era pilot tries to steal a Russian high-tech jet. 'PG'				★★ "Poltergeist II: The Other Side"			
	TCM	(5:30) ★★★ "All This and Heaven Too" (1940) Bette Davis. 'NR' ^(CC) (DVS)				★★★ "Scaramouche" (1952, Adventure) Stewart Granger. 'NR' ^(CC)				★★★ "Detective Story" (1951, Crime Drama) Kirk Douglas. 'NR' ^(CC)			
	HBO	(5:15) ★★ "Just Like Heaven" (2005)		Inside the NFL ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)		★★★ "16 Blocks" (2006) Bruce Willis. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'PG-13' ^(CC)		PS I Love You		REAL Sports With Bryant Gumbel ⁽¹⁾		Boxing's Best of 2007 (N) ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC)	
	MAX	(5:50) ★★ "Hollywoodland" (2006, Mystery) Adrien Brody. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'R' ^(CC)				★★★ "Grease" (1978, Musical) John Travolta. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'PG' ^(CC)				★★ "Snakes on a Plane" (2006, Horror) Samuel L. Jackson. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'R' ^(CC)			
	SHOW	(1:15) ★★★ "Untamed Heart" (1993) Christian Slater. iTV. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'PG-13' ^(CC)				★★ "Madea's Family Reunion" (2006) Tyler Perry. iTV. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'PG-13' ^(CC)				★ "Love Stinks" (1999, Comedy) French Stewart. iTV. 'R'		Curse-Charro	
	TMC	(5:20) Moog ^(CC)		(1:35) ★★ "Fearless Fighters" (1973) Chang Ching. 'R'		★★ "The River King" (2005) Edward Burns. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'R' ^(CC)		(1:45) ★★ "Alice, Sweet Alice" (1977, Horror) Paula Sheppard. 'R'		★ 10th and Wolf			
	STARZ!	O Brother-Thou		(1:35) ★★ "The Guardian" (2006, Drama) Kevin Costner, Ashton Kutcher. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'PG-13' ^(CC)		★★ "Ultraviolet" (2006) Milla Jovovich. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'PG-13' ^(CC)		★★ "Ghost Rider" (2007, Action) Nicolas Cage. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'PG-13' ^(CC)		★★★ "The Holiday" (2006) ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'PG-13' ^(CC)			
	ENCORE	(5:50) ★★★ "The Mummy" (1999) Brendan Fraser. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'PG-13' ^(CC)				★ "Ultraviolet" (2006) Milla Jovovich. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'PG-13' ^(CC)				★ "Bulletproof" (1996) Damon Wayans. ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'R' ^(CC)		★★★ "Annapolis" (2006) ⁽¹⁾ ^(CC) 'PG-13' ^(CC)	

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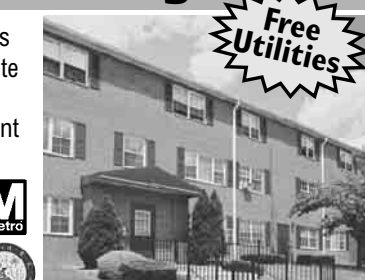
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Prkng. Cooking priv. Free cble. Utis incl. 301-602-
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RENTALS

RENTALS

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Trail VA, 20121. \$625. Call 703-798-3448 or 703-
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Unfurn \$700, No Smk, No Pets. 301-868-2326**DALE CITY**— Room w/ prvt BA & entr, Kit for M/F
in end unit TH to shr. \$700 Utis incl. Call 703-670-
7048**DIST HTS** — Female only, no smkg, furn rm nr
metro, \$395 + dep. util incl. 240-421-9771.**Forestville**—non-smokers, sh 4 br hse, safe, quiet
area, \$375 + 1/3 util. 301-420-4504,
bigrogerw@aol.com**HERNDON**. TH to shr. Bedroom, share Bath.
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Ronald, **202-423-7391****Hyattsville**—Nr. MLK Hwy, \$135 wk, Util Incl. Lrg
Rms, 3+ ba, Nwly Ren, WD, DW, Nr. Pub Trans 301-
455-8751**Hyattsville**—1 lg br, prvt ba, \$650. 1 br, shr ba,
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787-8286**LANHAM**—2br in shared SFH, Metro access, quiet
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available now.**Mount Vernon**—Share lg. 5 br, house, w/d, tv rm,
sat TV, pking, nr pub. trans/shops. super location!
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494-3692**RIVERDALE**—Prof F, 1 new BR in quiet SFH, sep
entr, w/d, near metro/College Park. \$450.
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hse, w/d, shr kitch. \$1,650 + 1/2 utis.
Rick 301-593-6218**SILVER SPRING**—Share condo, Avail 1-2BR. Next to
bus & shops. Near Metro. All incl. Call 703-994-
3501.**Silver Spring (D'Town)**— Shr TH. 1BR w/ prvt
BA: \$700. 1BR: \$550, 1BR: \$500; shr BA. Utis incl.
301-675-1242**WHEATON** — SM to share. 5BR, 2BA SFH. \$500 +
1/5 utis. w/d, a/c, park, 2 blks Glnmnt Metro. 202-
363-4128**Woodbridge**—Luxury lakeside home has furnished
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LOOK out

✱ TRENDS, CULTURE, DISCOVERIES, IDEAS, PEOPLE

Design

Signature museums can help little-known towns get on the map

It appears to float above a city of soldiers, looming over the sandy firing ranges and drop zones of Fort Bragg unlike any other building in downtown Fayetteville, N.C.

Designs for the new home of the Fayetteville Museum of Art depict a cross-shaped structure with elevated, cantilevered galleries — a cutting-edge building.

It's an ambitious design, not unlike the glass, wood and water of the planned Crystal Bridges art museum in Bentonville, Ark., or the layered forms of steel, patinated zinc and glass in the new art museum in Roanoke, Va.

None of the towns are small, but they're not big-name cities, either. Yet they're the latest to strive for

more than a simple container in designing a new art museum.

"It speaks volumes about the people that live there, where they're going and what they're thinking about their economic development, their situation in the world," said Tom Grubb, the director of the Fayetteville museum.

Grubb's ambition for the museum wasn't limited to the design, but also the designer. The Fayetteville museum hired internationally known architect Enrique Norten, whose projects include a proposed

Guggenheim museum in Guadalajara, Mexico.

At first, Norten wasn't interested in a project so small. "Then we realized it's a project that really, regardless of the size, it changes the life of a whole community," Norten said

INSIDE

Mischa Barton finally fits drunk starlet stereotype | 42

Discussions: Romney's son on Mitt the dad | 40

Blog Log: How could a zoo be so unsafe? | 40



ARTISTIC VISION: A rendering of the proposed Fayetteville, N.C., Museum of Art.

the bustling capital of Madrid or the cosmopolitan Barcelona.

"The building itself by a signature architect is part of the art, a demonstration in 3-D form of artistic principals," said Jason Hall, a spokesman for the American Association of Museums. "It fundamentally comes down to if you decide as a community that you want to have a museum, it seems like an increasing number of folks are contemplating the idea of creating not just a building, but a signature building."

The Fayetteville project is expected to cost between \$12 million and \$15 million. It may help create a new identity for the community.

"I think Fayetteville and many

Ambitious Architecture

in an interview from his office in Mexico City. "It has a huge impact on a community. A big project in a very big city can have very little impact, but in a community like that, it would be great."

It's happened before, most nota-

bly with architect Frank Gehry's Guggenheim Museum of swirling metal in Bilbao, Spain. The building itself became an attraction, drawing tourists to the city of 350,000 in northern Spain who might otherwise never have made it out of

other middle cities in the United States... are recognizing the value of good architecture," Norten said. "Communities have gotten sophisticated enough to demand better buildings in their towns."

MARTHA WAGGONER (AP)

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site specifics



MUSIC

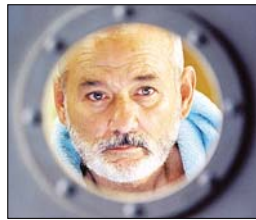
Word Up

The blues-rock jam-band supergroup known as the Word has gathered in fits and starts over the past seven years. Express contributor Chris Mincher spoke with jazz organist John Medeski about the Word's latest resurrection ahead of the band's Saturday show at the 9:30 Club. | [COMING UP](#)

ENTERTAINMENT

Borrowed Tunes

Punk legend Patti Smith first thought of doing an all-covers album in the '70s, and finally took the plunge this year with her album "Twelve." Express contributor Glenn Dixon spoke with Smith, who plays the 9:30 Club Friday, about playing other people's music. | [ONLINE NOW](#)



FILM

Family Dysfunction

Director Wes Anderson is known for his earnestly absurd movies that don't score big office numbers, but do become hipster cult classics. Express contributor Bob Massey profiles Anderson's films, featured in an AFI retrospective through Jan. 10. | [ONLINE NOW](#)

comment board

“The only people who believe there will be a recession in '08 are champagne communists, i.e. Democrats.”

COMMENTER DEMSGETREAL, WHO ADDED, “THINGS ARE SO BAD THAT JOHN EDWARDS WAS ONLY ABLE TO BUILD A 30,000 SQUARE FOOT MANSION.”

“Sadly, all indicators show [recession] is the direction we're going in, largely because of Bush and Cheney's historic debt, endless war, misguided priorities and rampant corruption.”

COMMENTER GARY, WHO ADDED, “HAPPY NEW YEAR!”



“The only thing that will keep the economy from going into a recession in 2008 will be all of the manipulations that this administration will try in order to help a Republican win the [presidency].”

COMMENTER NOT GOP, RESPONDING TO THURSDAY'S POLL CENTER QUESTION, “ARE YOU WORRIED THAT THE U.S. ECONOMY WILL SLIDE INTO A RECESSION IN 2008?”

poll center

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS AS OF 5 P.M.

ARE YOU WORRIED THAT THE U.S. ECONOMY WILL SLIDE INTO A RECESSION IN 2008?

YES 65%

NO 35%

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT [READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP](http://readexpress.com/pollcenter.php)

Blog LOG

“It's a damn shame [that] in such a concentration of wealth, this zoo can't see clear to make it a safe place — for the animals [or] the visitors.”

A COMMENTER AT [SF.METBLOGS.COM](http://sf.metblogs.com) LAMENTS THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING THE MAULING OF THREE SAN FRANCISCO ZOO VISITORS, ONE OF WHOM DIED, BY AN ESCAPED TIGER.



A AMIR QURESHI/GETTY IMAGES

“Even if Musharraf wasn't involved [actively or benignly], the perception that he was could eventually lead to his ouster.”

A COMMENTER AT [FIREDOGLAKE.COM](http://firedoglake.com) THEORIZES ABOUT THE POTENTIAL FATE OF PAKISTANI PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF FOLLOWING THE ASSASSINATION OF FORMER P.M. BENAZIR BHUTTO.



“THE MAN IN FRONT of me in line at Barnes & Noble on Christmas Eve had a tower of books, DVDs and games in his arms ... in imminent danger of toppling over. The boy behind me whispered in my ear, ‘That's either for one pretty spectacular kid, or a lot of just average ones. Wonder which one it is?’”

LAURIEWRITES.TYPEPAD.COM ON THE POSSIBLE RECIPIENTS OF A STACK OF POTENTIAL CHRISTMAS PRESENTS.

“IF YOU OPT for one of these plates, the DMV will waive an administrative fee, making these plates cheaper than other specialty plates. Why does God need favors from the DMV?”

SCOTTSTAKE.BLOGSPOT.COM FINDS THE INDIANA LICENSE PLATES READING “IN GOD WE TRUST” SLIGHTLY UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

“IS IT ME OR is Roger Clemens starting to sound a whole lot like O.J. Simpson?”

BRUCE-567MILESFROMHOME.BLOGSPOT.COM IS NOT CONVINCED BY THE MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL PITCHER'S RECENT DENIALS OF STEROID USE ACCUSATIONS.

Discussions

Tagg Romney

TAGG ROMNEY, eldest son of GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney, was online Thursday, Dec. 20, to talk about his father's campaign, his role in it and what it's like to have a parent running for president.

If your father wins the presidency, do you feel he will be able to move away from the traditional GOP support of big oil companies so that we can start to truly focus on alternative energy?

He's made it very clear that becoming energy independent

isn't just a good idea, it's critical to our national security and to the environment as well. He thinks we need to be investing a lot more in finding and developing alternative sources of energy — wind, solar, nuclear, etc. And he thinks there's a lot we need to do as a nation to find ways to conserve as well.

If your father were to win the presidency, what role would you see yourself playing, if any, in the administration?

Attorney general, for sure. Just kidding of course. I haven't thought much about what I will do next, but my preference is to go back to the private world of business.

What kind of a dad was Mitt Romney when you were growing up? Would you classify him as strict or more lenient?

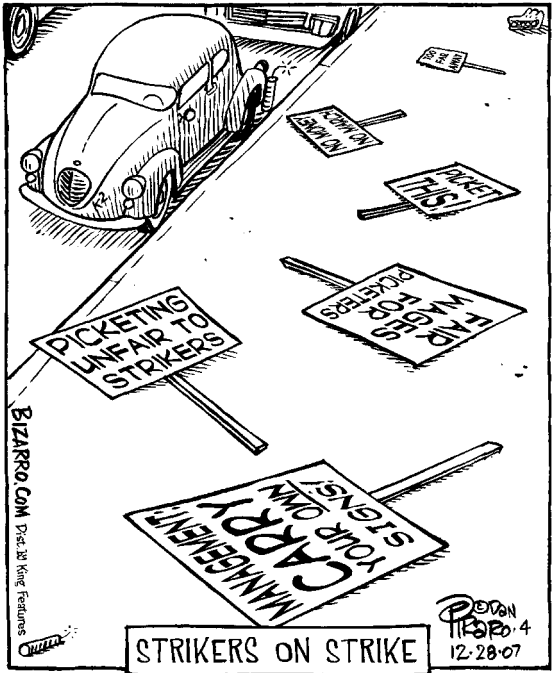
My mom was a softie, he was the disciplinarian. But we always knew we were more important than anything else to him. People always ask me if he was able to spend much time at home given how busy he must have been. To be honest, it seemed like he was home all the time. Even now, his favorite thing to do is to get his kids and grandkids together and spend time with us.

TODAY ON DISCUSSIONS: There will be no discussions during the holidays. They will resume Jan. 2. Check out the year's best chats at washingtonpost.com/discussions.

DON'T

WORRY ABOUT THOSE CHRISTMAS EVE PARKING TICKETS, D.C. The Department of Public Works says it will dismiss parking tickets given out during rush hour on Christmas Eve, according to WTOP. Those violations usually cost about \$100.

Bizarro | Dan Piraro

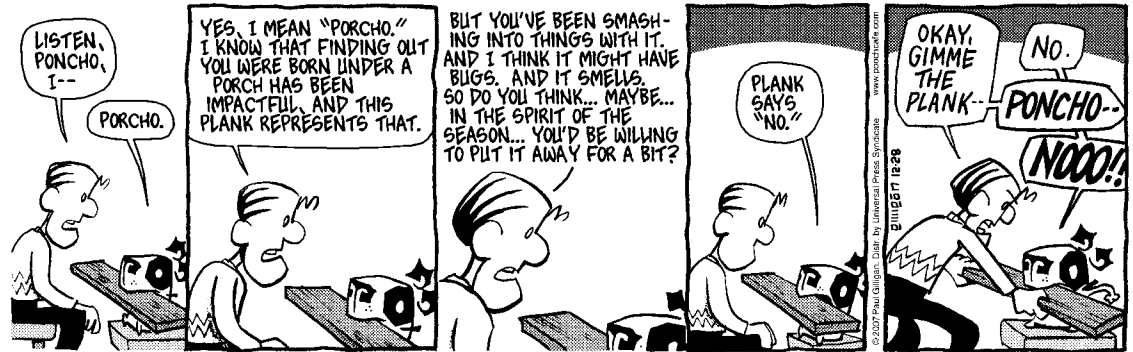


Cornered | Mike Baldwin

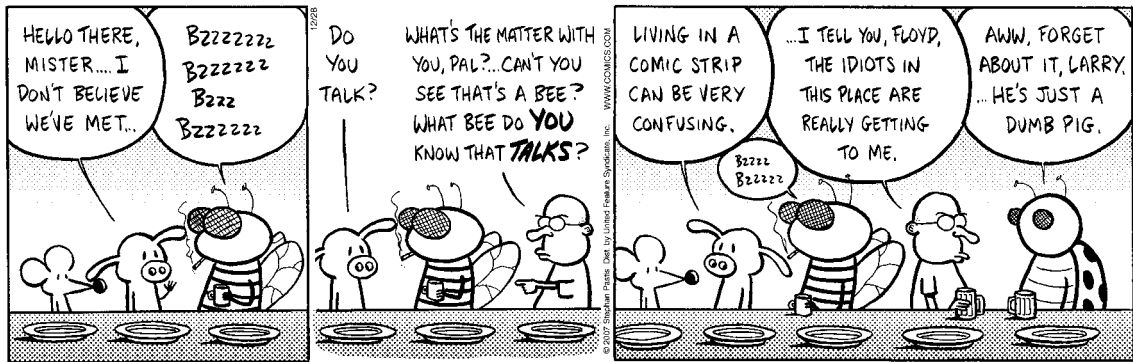


"I said you should take some initiative. I didn't say you could take it all."

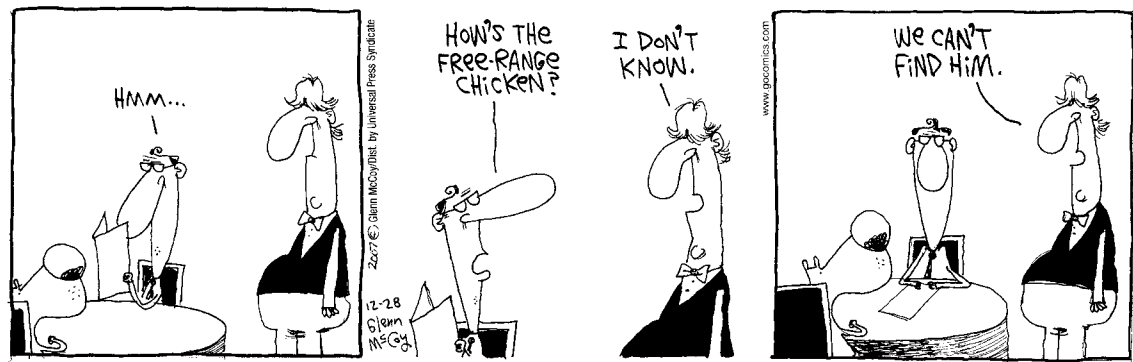
Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Personality differences may be too much for you to handle on your own; get in touch with someone who can get the healing process started.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) The same old thing will be your best friend throughout the day. You can rely on routine to see you through an unpleasant situation.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) The weather may not be cooperating, but you can alter your plans in such a way as to come through without any major risks or problems.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) You may have to do things in a manner that will attract some criticism—but the fact is that you have no real choice in the matter.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You won't have a great deal of time to tend to personal affairs, but if you consolidate your efforts you can do more than expected.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) You'll enjoy spending time with a friend or loved

one whom you may not see on a regular basis. Take the opportunity to extend a special invitation.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) That which others consider a waste of time may be the most valuable thing for you to do. Remember the adage: to each his own.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) The moment you give someone permission to do something others are not allowed to do, the floodgates of trouble will open.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) The same old thing again and again may be just what you're in the mood for.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) The speed with which you can develop is likely to be cause for some talk among the experts at this time. You may be doing the impossible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Though a good friend may be giving you some trouble when it comes to work, it's a good day to set aside differences and enjoy some playful fun.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You may be racing around throughout much of the day trying to tie up loose ends. Delegate some responsibility to those you trust.



Children sing the Pledge of Allegiance, which was recognized on this day in 1945.

Today in History

1832 John C. Calhoun becomes the first vice president of the United States to resign, stepping down over differences with President Jackson.

1846 Iowa becomes the 29th state to be admitted to the Union.

1917 The New York Evening Mail publishes "A Neglected Anniversary," a facetious essay by H.L.

Mencken supposedly recounting the history of bathtubs in America.

1945 Congress recognizes the Pledge of Allegiance.

1987 The bodies of 14 relatives of Ronald Gene Simmons are found at his home near Dover, Ark., following a shooting rampage by Simmons.

Correction: A caption in Thursday's sports section mistakenly identified Derby County's Eddie Lewis and Gary Teate.

PostPoints DAILY CODE JP

LOOK

out

People

NOSTALGIA

She Looks Like The Puky Girl From ‘The Sixth Sense’

MISCHA BARTON was arrested Thursday morning for investigation of driving under the influence of alcohol and possessing marijuana after police saw her car straddling two lanes of traffic. The 21-year-old actress, who starred on Fox’s teen drama “The O.C.,” was driving on La Cienega Boulevard in West Hollywood when she was stopped at about 2:45 a.m., authorities said. She spent about seven hours in the West Hollywood jail before being released on \$10,000 bail. A court hearing was scheduled for Feb. 28. (AP)



With this smirk, it's clear Mischa is paying homage to Lindsay's mug shot.

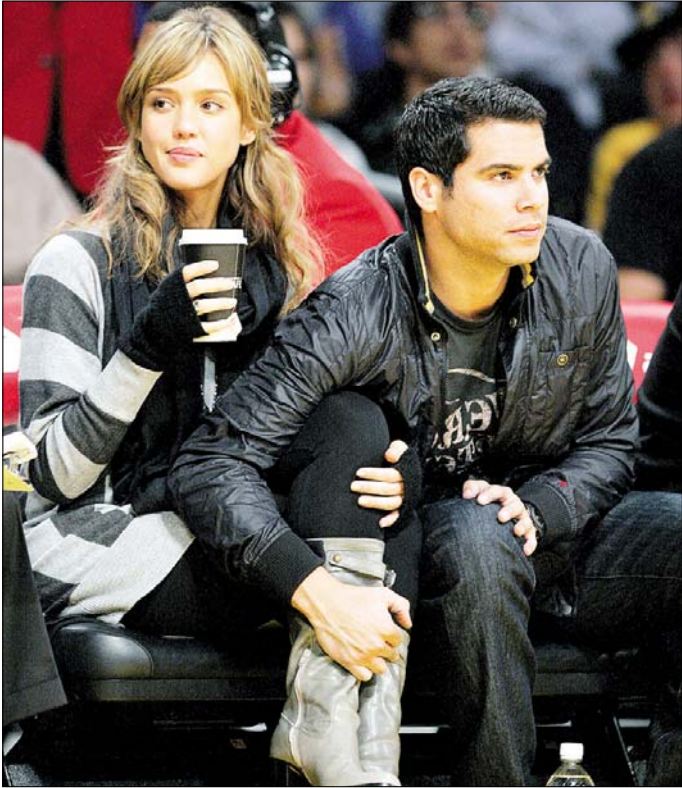


RENE MACURA/AP

BODY LANGUAGE

Stewart Often Smiles Like This Before Spontaneously Combusting

JAY LENO, CONAN O'BRIEN, JIMMY KIMMEL and **JON STEWART** all plan returns to late-night television the next two weeks, but aside from their familiar faces, viewers may not recognize much. After two months away because of the still-unresolved writers strike, NBC's Leno and O'Brien, and ABC's Kimmel, resume their programs next Wednesday, Jan. 2. Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert come back to Comedy Central the following Monday, Jan. 7. Barring a New Year's miracle, none of their writers will be joining them. (AP)



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

ROMANTIC

She's All Mine!

JESSICA ALBA, who announced earlier this month that she's expecting, is now engaged to her boyfriend and the baby's father, producer Cash Warren. “I can confirm that they are engaged,” Alba’s publicist, Brad Cafarelli, said in an e-mail to The Associated Press on Thursday. The couple is expecting their first child in late spring or early summer. (AP)



More talented than a pointy Vogue bra.

TORTURE

And Germany Thought Tom Cruise Was Annoying

MADONNA’s debut movie as a director will have its world premiere at the annual Berlin film festival in February. “Filth and Wisdom,” starring Eugene Hutz and Richard E. Grant, will screen outside the main competition. Organizers didn’t specify whether the 49-year-old singer will present the movie. (AP)

TROUBLE

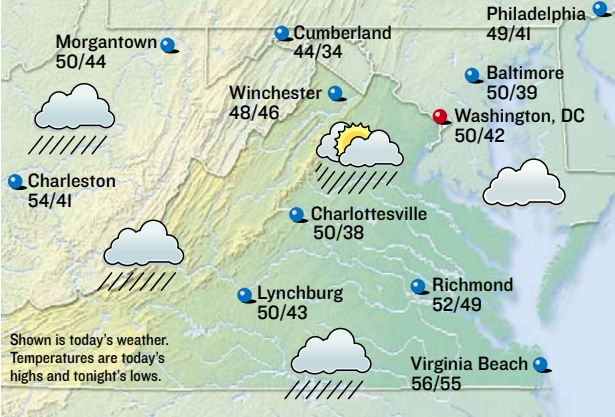
Norwegians Hope for an In-Court ‘Rehab’ Outburst

AMY WINEHOUSE has been ordered to appear in court in Bergen after appealing her fine for marijuana possession. She and husband Blake Fielder-Civil were arrested Oct. 18 and held overnight. They were released the next day after paying \$715 each. Winehouse later claimed she had been tricked into signing the charges. (AP)

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
50°	42°	57° / 34°	46° / 34°	48° / 33°	45° / 26°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.

Temperature

High 56°

Low 38°

Normal high 44°

Normal low 29°

Average humidity 66%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m. 0.05"

Month to date 2.45"

Normal month to date 2.65"

Year to date 32.10"

Last year to date 47.71"

Normal year to date 38.95"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see:
washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

D.C. Metro: Today, increasingly cloudy, rain beginning late. High 50. Wind southeast 4-8 mph. Tonight, cloudy, rain. Low 42.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 7:26 a.m.

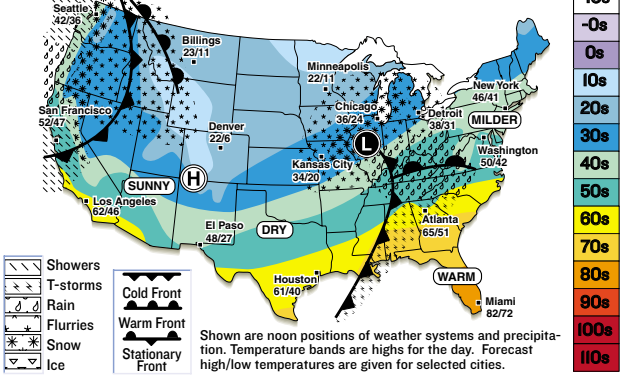
Sunset tonight 4:53 p.m.

Moonrise today 10:13 p.m.

Moonset today 10:39 a.m.



National Weather for Friday, December 28



National Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Atlanta	65/51/r	55/41/c
Boston	46/36/pc	46/32/r
Chicago	36/24/sn	29/24/c
Dallas	54/32/s	57/38/pc
Denver	22/6/pc	35/16/c
Honolulu	80/71/c	80/68/pc
Los Angeles	62/46/pc	63/47/pc
Miami	82/72/s	83/71/s
New York City	46/41/pc	53/37/r
Orlando	81/63/pc	84/62/pc
Seattle	42/36/r	40/38/r

World Cities

City	Today	Sat.
Amsterdam	45/39/pc	43/37/pc
Athens	52/46/c	50/45/pc
Berlin	41/37/c	41/30/pc
Buenos Aires	81/70/t	88/75/s
Calgary	19/4/c	15/-2/c
Dublin	52/39/r	46/37/sh
Geneva	46/29/pc	42/34/pc
Moscow	27/23/pc	27/25/pc
Rome	52/36/s	52/37/pc
Sydney	77/66/pc	78/65/s
Tokyo	52/45/r	56/40/c

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

ACROSS

a film
42 Be
43 Rat's reversal?
44 Bobbsey twin
45 Unit of play in
squash
46 "___ Arms"
(Journey)
48 Hardly original
49 You could be safe
with him
52 Here and there,
to Cato
55 From the
beginning
57 Pintful, perhaps
58 Absolute
beauties
60 "Capita" preceder
61 Crate eggs, e.g.
62 Chief Big Bear,
for one
63 The Red Baron,
for one
64 Held consistent
views?
65 Vocal thumbs
down

DOWN

1 "Mon

1 _d'Amerique"
 (Depardieu film)
 2 Three in a war
 film title
 3 Thunderstruck
 4 Comfortable
 5 Mountain range
 6 Griffith of boxing
 7 Shrewd (Var.)
 8 "I'm not eating
 that!"
 9 Fetch, as stored
 data
 10 City in the Ruhr
 basin
 11 Commandments
 pronoun
 12 It can mean "Out
 of my way!"
 13 Bassoon's little
 brother
 18 Pines
 22 Between partner
 25 Alpine wind
 26 Cafes
 27 Naturally belong
 29 "Doctor Who"
 villainess (with "the")
 30 September 13, e.g.
 31 Main idea
 32 Public scenes

33 "Shucks!"
34 Flat-topped
elevation
35 Islamic scripture
38 "West Side
Story" building, etc.
39 Don't have to
45 Carved, as turkey
47 Vocal cords, in
slang
48 Big, in bariatrics
49 Places humans

evolve?
50 Places to find ore
51 Stands for a
sculptor?
52 "___ Was a Rollin'
Stone" (1972 hit)
53 Baldwin of "Pearl
Harbor"
54 Dry to the bone
55 Way, way off
56 Irritating tingle
59 Big TV maker

Yesterday's Solution

[illegible]

EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
14					15							16		
17					18							19		
20									21		22			
23					24				25					
				26				27				28	29	30
32	33	34					35					36		
37						38					39			
40						41					42			
43						44				45				
				46	47				48				49	50
52	53	54						55				56		
57					58		59							
60					61							62		
63					64							65		

Fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles. A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another.

Last Week's Solution

[illegible]

6			7	9							2		3				9		
	8						2					5					1		
	1	7			6	9		8			9		3	4		2	5		
		2	5		8	1							4	1		6	7		
		8		6		2							1		3		4		
		5	4		3	8							8	7		2	5		
7	9	6			2									3			1	4	2
	5																	6	
					5				4		5			9					
						5	8		6	9									
						1		7		5									
						8	3		1	2									
					1				6		7			4					
	4																2		
5	8	9			7								2			3	5	8	
		5	6		8	2							4	8		6	7		
		6		5		3							8		1		4		
		3	1		2	5							6	9		4	5		
	5	2			9	7		1				3	5	1			8	4	
	3					8							8				3		
9			2		3									3		8		6	

		6		1		4		
		1	3		4			
2			5				8	
							1	
5		9		7		8		6
	4							
	2				5			3
			8		7	5		
		5		4		2		

PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

Yesterday's Solution

1	4	7	3	5	9	6	2	8
3	6	5	2	7	8	9	4	1
9	2	8	1	4	6	5	3	7
6	3	9	4	1	2	7	8	5
7	5	4	9	8	3	1	6	2
8	1	2	5	6	7	3	9	4
2	7	1	6	9	4	8	5	3
4	8	6	7	3	5	2	1	9
5	9	3	8	2	1	4	7	6

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Need more Su|do|ku?

Need more Sudoku?
Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

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to I-81 S. Exit Left on Rt. 277 to comm. on Left.

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OPPORTUNITY

Styles

DECEMBER 28-30, 2007



'Savage' Sis:
Laura Linney
on her latest
flick and U.S.
history | **E2**

express READEXPRESS.COM HOW TO SHOP, ENTERTAIN, DRESS, DECORATE AND OTHERWISE IMPROVE YOURSELF AND YOUR HOME

INTERIOR MOTIVES

RESOLVE TO REFRESH YOUR
PLACE IN 2008 BY BANISHING
BIG CHAIRS, HANGING UP HIP
ART AND GOING ANTIQUING | **E4**



PLUS

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN
CHEESES — ESPECIALLY WHEN
YOU KNOW WHICH WINES AND
FOODS TO SERVE WITH 'EM | **E6**



face^{QA}time

■ **In a world obsessed** with ditzzy heiresses and D.U.I.-getting starlets, 43-year-old actor Laura Linney manages to make maturity seem downright glamorous. The vet of indie flicks like “You Can Count On Me” and “The Squid and the Whale” is getting buzzy reviews now for her star turn opposite Philip Seymour Hoffman in “The Savages.”

What was it like playing Philip Seymour Hoffman's little sister?

It was fun! I liked being the younger sibling! It was nice to be impulsive and narcissistic.

You two actually really seemed like siblings in the movie.

We'd met over the years because we're both theater actors, [who have] kicked around New York. We'd see each other after plays. We're from the same weird actor country. He's a refreshing person.

In the movie, your character is a great liar. Does being an actress making fibbing easier in real life?

I'm actually the opposite. I'm a terrible liar. I am immediately filled with guilt. I just can't do it. I am an actress — I'm not a con man.

The premise of the film — two adult children looking for a nursing home for their father — is very emotional. How did you not go home upset?

I'm good at leaving work and not bringing it home. But it made me think. I made sure that wills were taken care of. I talked to family members about what their wishes were — what did they want me to do? Let's make these decisions now while everybody is in good humor, good health, sound body and sound mind. We can all laugh at this, but I need your help, because it's going to be really hard when it happens.

Where do you want to end up in your twilight years?

I want to end up around people. As much as I'd hate leaving a place that's “home,” I don't want to be an



GETTY IMAGES

Laura Linney

ACTOR, STAR OF “THE SAVAGES,” HISTORY BUFF

isolated person who just watches “Jeopardy” all the time. I'll go to arts and crafts. I'll go move my arms around for exercise. I'll have some young person talk to me in a patronizing way — that's fine.

You're playing Abigail Adams in an HBO miniseries about John Adams next year. Did you know much about her before taking the role?

She wrote letters. They had a good marriage. That's what I knew. I didn't even know she was considered a feminist. There's a famous quote of hers, “remember the ladies.” “I learned a lot.

It sounds like doing the series amounted to taking a crash course in U.S. history.
It absolutely was. It made me realize

“I don't want to be an isolated person who watches ‘Jeopardy’ all the time.”

how American history is wasted on high school sophomores. I understand how people become addicted to American history.

And you shot some of the miniseries at Colonial Williamsburg?

Oh sure. I love Williamsburg. Ye olde colonial, yar har.

Did you put yourself in the stocks?

I did go in the stocks. I have a picture of my grandmother and grandfather in the stocks. Then my fiancé came to visit me, and we got in the stocks. So I have a duplicate picture now of us in the stocks.

See, who knows how many people have posed there!

Millions. Laura Linney in the stocks. I got me a reputation in Williamsburg. KRIS CORONADO (EXPRESS)



Daily Poll

The boss doesn't care what you think. We do.

readexpress.com

2

Ms. Green Gem

RESOLVING TO GO eco in '08 doesn't mean you have to swear off bling. Lucina (Lucinajewelry.com), a Portland-based jewelry-making collective named for the Roman goddess, partners with fair-trade stone-cutters and silver sources in South America, Afghanistan and Indonesia to turn out adornments that seem a far cry from hippie beads. Styles that look citified, not communal, include a tagua gem pendant (\$72, shown) and bright red cho-clo seed earrings (\$78).



5 Grape Explorations

IT COSTS THOUSANDS to make your own chardonnay through Crushpad, the Napa D.I.Y. outfit. But its Fusebox wine-blending kit (\$120, Fuseboxwine.com) lets wannabe vintners sniff, sample and concoct their own cabs and chateau margaux using mini bottles of red varietals—malbec, merlot, etc. Beakers, tasting note placemats and a guess-what's-in-here? mystery vintage mean the set is quite literally a party in a box.

Grab Bag

3

Smacker, Dabbed

FOR ANYONE WHOSE stocking was shockingly bereft of sugarplum-infused bath goo or tannenbaum-sap shampoo, Kiehl's limited-edition holiday lip balm trio (\$25.50, Kiehls.com) is still lurking online. Three subtly scented varieties—mint, pear and cranberry—say "Meet me under that last scrap of mistletoe" without seeming desperate. That they're rich and chapped kisser-soothing is just another little gift from you to you.



Garden Variety

INDIAN TURNSOLE, a hairy-stemmed wildflower, is perhaps best known as a homeopathic remedy for pimples and boils. But when compressed, the root

4 of the plant forms a groovy veneer, which Filipino artist Louisa Robinson turned into mod-meets-Deco boxes (\$115–\$175, Muléh, 1831 14th St. NW; 202-667-3440). They're equally good for storing jewelry or seeds for this spring's crop of obscure foreign posies.

dear
manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOEBLOGGER

I've just made my New Year's resolutions, and at the top of the list is "get more exercise." I'm planning a program that combines more jogging with some weight training. Do you have any suggestions for shoes? —CLAIRE

■ Manolo says, the Manolo learned long ago not to make New Year's resolutions that required any substantial change in his behavior. Madness that way lies. And thus the Manolo only has one standing



New Year's resolutions: Make the world more super-fantastic.

Be kinder to strangers you meet on the street. Tip waitresses generously. Smile at small children and dogs, even when they are naughty. Engage random strangers in pleasant conversations about growing flowers and your last trip to the circus. Resist the urge to use your walking stick to pummel rude people who talk loudly on cell phones. These are the kinds of small things that make the world the better place, and contribute to social harmony and understanding.

If you still wish to go jogging, the Manolo always recommends the New Balance WX1007 sneakers (\$101, Zappos.com). You will not be disappointed.

@ Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

At RCKNDY (1515 U St. NW; 202-332-5639), shop owner David Dennis sits on a Blu Dot sofa (\$1,799) beside an Orange22 table (\$1,746). A pig bank (\$95) and frames (\$195) are by Harry Allen. Photo by Marge Ely.

Flashcard of Inspiration

WITH KNITTING GROUPS to attend and ReadyMade magazines to read, it's a wonder you've had any time to do any crafts lately. The "D.I.Y. Design it Yourself Deck" (\$17, Chronicle Books) holds cards with quick ideas for projects like Sharpie-graffiti hoodies, journals carved from old hardbacks and postcard luggage tags. Most stuff requires just-above-grade-school skills (cutting, coloring), meaning you could stamp a lampshade and customize a clock in a single weekend!



Styles | home



«one

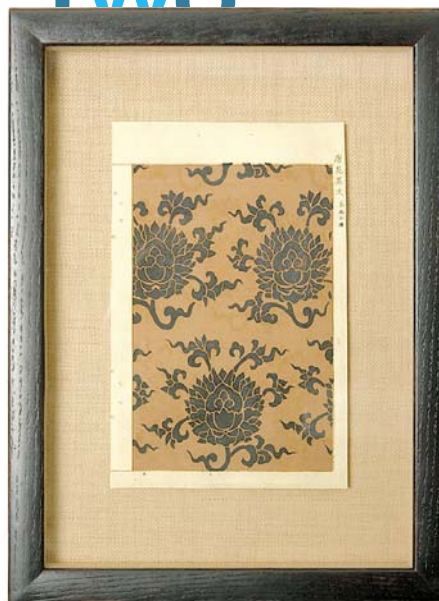
Let Old Meet New

Sure, Grandpa's dark wood dresser looks funeral-home stodgy in a room of Charles Dickens-era furniture. But put something vintage with something au courant, "and it warms up your whole house," says Amy Rutherford, pictured, owner of Red Barn Mercantile (113 S. Columbus St.; 703-838-0355), a new Old Town Alexandria shop that blends weathered pieces, such as an early 20th-century warehouse dolly-cum-table (\$1,250, shown) and presidential portraits (\$25 each), with crisp, contemporary stuff like linen-upholstered sofas (\$5,118). Other ideas: Pair metal Ikea chairs with an old farm table with peeling paint or hang a Pop Arty portrait over a carved Victorian bed. "Just try to keep the lines clean," says Rutherford.

"FIND ONE ANTIQUE PIECE THAT APPEALS TO YOU. IT REALLY WARMS UP A MODERN HOUSE."

—AMY RUTHERFORD
RED BARN MERCANTILE

two



Get Art Smarts

You got the note about how uncool Picasso posters are if you aren't a junior in college, right? But if putting "real" paintings or prints up sounds expensive or intimidating, take a crash course in affordable art. "It's the icing on the cake, but people are funny about it," says Daren Miller, owner of Adams Morgan decor den And Beige (1781 Florida Ave. NW; 202-234-1557). He recommends decking walls with non-trad pieces like the framed, vintage wallpaper fragments (\$500) or birch bark baskets (\$20-\$25) he hawks at his store. Design blogger Grace Bonney (Designspongeonline.com) champions the ultra-affordable prints (\$20-\$60) of animals and whimsical figures by Etsy.com artists like Matte Stephens and Ashley G. "Buy a series and put them in Ikea frames to make a gallery wall," she says.

Go For a Collection Correction

"Why do people insist on collecting crap that they don't even have room for?" asks Douglas Burton, co-owner of contempo Penn Quarter home store Apartment Zero (406 7th St. NW; 202-628-4067). He recommends only putting out small groups of well-chosen, well-loved objects, like a flock of glass Oiva Toikka birds (\$245 and up, sold at his shop) perched on a mantel or two or three jade-

three



handled Chinese calligraphy brushes (shown, \$28-\$32, Abaca Imports, 1201 N. Royal St.; Alexandria; 703-684-2901) on a table. What should be outlawed? Sports memorabilia that isn't nicely displayed, dolls (unless you're a nine-year-old girl) and granny-ish herds of dusty figurines, which smack of desperate Tennessee Williams characters — and will surely scare off gentleman (or lady) callers.

➔ Nest Intentions

Do more push ups! Eat less chocolate! Why do New Year's resolutions always focus on bods, not abodes? In this bleak season, promising to make your surroundings brighter, lighter or more organized might be easier and more enjoyable than joining Gold's Gym (again). It's a good time to do away with last year's castoffs and get your pad in shape. "I vow to never to buy another bird piece," says decor blogger Design Sponge, aka Grace Bonney. David Dennis, owner of U Street shop RCKNDY swears he's going to embrace wallpaper. "It's great on just one wall," he says. And us? We'll be nibbling bonbons on a new loveseat, not a chair-and-a-half — that's so 2007. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)



four
 “A LITTLE SHIMMER IS ALWAYS FUN IN A HOUSE — LIKE A CHANDELIER OR A PAIR OF NICE CANDLES.”

— DAREN MILLER
 AND BEIGE

Add a Little Bit of Luxe

Not to sound like Town and Country mag, but, doesn't your pad deserve something shiny or blingy? A glistening copper bowl (\$65, And Beige, 1781 Florida Ave. NW; 202-234-1557) could elevate a plain-Jane dining table; Victoria Hagen's Palm Beachy vases and mirrors from Target cost very little, but lend a room boutique hotel swank. “A little shimmer is always fun in a house, like a chandelier or a pair of nice candles,” says And Beige owner Daren Miller. Think of sparkly bits as jewelry for the home, and only add a few mercury glass balls or one silvery dresser to a pad. A hall of mirrors is only appropriate at Versailles — just look at what happened to that early decor diva Marie Antoinette!

Don't Space Out

You know those huge, overstuffed sofas? The only place they really belong is airport waiting areas, and that's as likely to happen as planes taking off on schedule or Dennis Kucinich redecorating the Oval Office. To make your place look great, sometimes it's better to think small. “I hate the chair-

SIX and-a-half! They're out of proportion in condos and townhouses. It's just aiding the obesity crisis,” says David Dennis, owner of thoroughly modern RCKNDY (1515 U St. NW; 202-332-5639), which stocks streamlined, mid-century-mod sofas by Blu Dot and Gus Modern as well as sleek cocktail tables and other cramped-quarters stars. Really want a big old chair? Snag a loveseat instead, which is more romantic, anyhow.



seven Toss Pillow Piles

In the indie flick “Lovely and Amazing,” one of the characters has to slowly remove a zillion pillows from her bed every time she goes to sleep. And while we love a good sofa or boudoir puff, enough is enough. “Our customers kept asking us for long bolsters, so we had Bev Hisey design us one,” says Douglas Burton of Apartment Zero (406 7th St. NW; 202-628-4067). A single throw model like Zero's wool felt number by Hisey (\$220) packs more punch than a dozen fussy numbers from Pier 1, and often provides all the lounge-aid you need. On sofas, it's nice to mix solid and print pillows, but limit yourself to two or three so you can see the couch, please! We like the designs of Michelle Varian (Michelevarian.com) or Thomas Paul (Pillowsandthrows).



eight

Rules, Schmools

Rugs are for floors. All the furniture in your dining room should match. The decorating tips our parents lived by no longer hold true, and thinking in such a circa-1981 Better Homes and Gardens way will make your house look frumpy. That means you can put things where they seem not to belong — a CB2 rug on the wall (shown, \$300-\$400; Cb2.com), a tiny table stacked on a huge chest for more storage. And that whole matchy-matchy furniture thing? It's as out of fashion as handbags and shoes cut from one shade of leather. “If you walk into a room and all the wood is the same color, it feels like you're in a furniture showroom,” says Bethesda interior designer Diane Gordy. “Mix things up, say with an antique chest or an upholstered headboard. It's more pleasing.” Then keep the room unified by repeating colors or shapes.

“IF ALL THE WOOD IS THE SAME COLOR, IT FEELS LIKE A FURNITURE SHOWROOM.”

— DIANE GORDY, INTERIOR DESIGNER

Flee the Woods

The antler chandelier was ironic and hip. But when you added the owl towels and squirrel tray, your Logan loft started to feel like Grizzly Adams' lair. Really, the whole woodland creatures craze needs to be put on the endangered species list. “There's all this stuff coming out of my own borough — Brooklyn — like this, and it's we've ODeD,” says design blogger Grace Bonney. “Anything related to a deer — heads, antlers, tiny figurines! A little dash here and there is fine.” To avoid a hunting-lodge vibe, limit yourself to one or two forest-y elements — one of Roost's wooden stag heads (\$575, Velocityartanddesign.com), a cowhide rug from Prua (Pstreetventures.com). And watch for the next motif trend, then dip in just a wee bit. “I think it's going to be the octopus and the squid,” says Bonney.





DON'T PUT IT ON THE RITZ: Good breads, homemade sauces and well-chosen vino help brie and other cheeses taste better.

Chums of Cheeses

Sauces, wines and fruit that make fromage more friendly

Chunks of cheddar, wheels of brie, hunks of Gruyère. Cheese is such a popular winter party guest, it's surprising people don't bring it as a date or grope it under the mistletoe. And while it's always a sharp choice for a bash (it pleases vegetarians, meat-eaters, even mice), what you serve with your queso is almost as important as which variety you lay out.

"When people think about serving cheese, they tend to go overboard," says Laura Werlin, author of "Cheese Essentials: An Insider's Guide to Buying and Serving Cheese" (\$30, Stewart, Tabori & Chang). "If you serve 10 cheeses, it can be overwhelming."

If you're hosting an all-from-age fête, plan on four to six different cheeses. If you're making

cheese a part of a dinner or cocktail bash, keep it to no more than three types. And mix things up by including different textures (creamy, semi-hard, hard) and milk sources (cow, goat, sheep). "If you have three hard cheeses it gets a little monotonous," says Werlin.

Once you've chosen your dairy delights, round up cheese's fave dance partners, from bread and chutneys to wine. If you invested time and cash lining up several nice hunks of curd, don't scrimp on the accompaniments. "One of the pitfalls people fall into is pairing great cheeses with a Ritz cracker," says Michael Harr, chef at Butterfield 9 (600 14th St. NW), who dishes up cheeses with complements like macerated berries or lavender honey.

For a something to plop snacks on, don't reach for flavored crackers. Instead, try a toasted whole-grain baguette or buttered brioche, neither of which will mask the taste of an aged Stilton or young chèvre.

Both savory or sweet sauces and foods can help highlight or cut

QUESO STUDY

Brie Toast with Chardonnay Raisins

MAKES 24

- 1 1/2 cups water
- 1 cup Chardonnay
- 1/4 cup plus 2 tbs. sugar
- 1 vanilla bean, halved vertically
- 1 cup golden raisins
- 12 oz. sliced brie (24 pieces)
- 24 slices baguette, 1/4 inch thick
- 4 tbs. unsalted butter, melted

IN A PAN. combine water, wine, sugar; simmer until sugar dissolves. Reduce heat; simmer for 5 min. Turn off heat. Scrape insides of bean into liquid; add bean. Steep for an hour at room temperature. Refrigerate overnight.

DRAIN RAISINS: reserve liquid. Discard bean. Put liquid back in pan; bring to boil. Reduce to about 1/3 cup. Cool.

TOAST BAGUETTE slices; brush with butter. Top each toast with cheese and drizzle with raisins and syrup.

through the fattiness of fromage. "It's kind of about following your intuition with your taste preferences," says Werlin, who prefers savory accompaniments like olives and meat with cheese before dinner. Thinking geographically can create tasty pairings, which means an olive spread with Greek feta or slices of Italian prosciutto with a buttery taleggio.

Bries and other rich cheeses go well with champagne.

Fruit, with its punch of acidity and sweetness, also acts as a good foil to the creamy richness of cheeses. Think the tart crispness of a pear or apple with a cheddar or a cherry chutney with brie. "Lightly caramelized pears and apples go very well with cheese," says Harr. "So do roasted apricots, berries and honey."

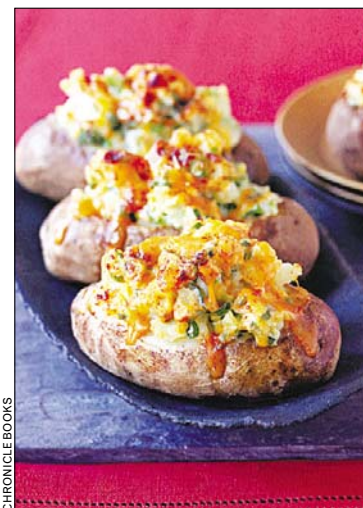
"Wine and cheese are ageless companions, like aspirin and aches or June and moon," legendary food writer M.F.K. Fisher once said. But matching them requires a little know-how. "If you're not sure which wine to pair with a cheese, go with the region," says Kerry Carlsen, wine director at Planet Wine (2004 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria). "If you have a great Barolo, find a cheese from that Italian region, like a fontina. That's what they'd be eating and drinking naturally."

In general, Carlsen says white wines with a bit of sweetness, (Rieslings, Gewürztraminers), or fruitier, medium-bodied reds (Pinot Noirs, Zinfandels), combine well with most cheeses. "And for champagne, creamy cheeses like brie are great," she says. "The bubbles and creaminess create a nice contrast."

Whatever you serve your cheese with, be sure to take it out of the fridge an hour before guests arrive to allow flavors and aromas to open. And don't crowd your dairy delights all on one plate. "If you have a particularly strong cheese or a runny cheese, give it its own showcase," says Werlin. Because some cheeses, perhaps, really should stand alone.

KELLY DINARDO

mixed media



BOOKS

This Spud Review

■ It'd be hard to round up a collection of potato recipes that wasn't snarfable, right? Calling your cookbook "YUMMY POTATOES: 65 DOWNRIGHT DELICIOUS RECIPES" (\$19, Chronicle) — like Marlena Spieler did — suggests an author in such a carb-induced haze that clever titles escaped her. So while we would've chuckled to thumb through "The Truth About Tubers" or "Starch Rivals: Why Yams Suck and Potatoes Don't," we're just as happy to cook such delish-sounding dishes as basil mashers or french fries with citrus-garlic mojo. Worldly goodies — Greek potatoes baked with lemon and garlic, Spanish spud tortillas — look particularly, um, smashing. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

BOOKS

Takeout Fake-Out

■ The last time we checked, New York City was the only place in the U.S. where one could easily order in or carry out Spanish churros, German wiener schnitzel and Thai curry. Those are just a few of the ethnic dishes that "THE TAKE-OUT MENU BOOK" (\$20, Running Press) doles out the recipes for. It'd take a thick stack of paper menus to come up with all the concoctions detailed here: Peking Duck, green enchiladas, Pad Thai. Still, since ingredient lists tend to be long (it takes 20-plus items to produce Lamb Korma!) and instructions tend to be a tad complex, we'll still be keeping the phone number for Big Wong's House of Pot Stickers programmed into our phone. J.B.

Of Spices and Holiday Spirits

I have about half a bottle of port left over from drinks after my holiday dinner. I'd like to use it up. The classic pairing is with duck, but I find duck fatty. Can you recommend any other good meat pairing? Equinox restaurant chef Todd Gray has mixed port with red wine and made a reduction to serve with pheasant. Quail and guinea hen are good pairings, too.

The girlfriend and I are hosting a party and want a drink we can make a big batch of beforehand. Any advice? Punches can be made ahead of time

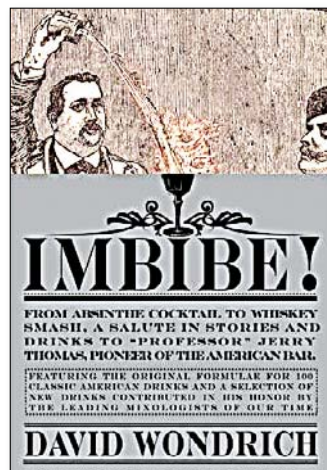


for parties. Dave Wondrich, author of "Imbibe!" (\$24, Perigee Trade), likes to whip up one called Captain Radcliffe's Punch, which dates back to the 17th century. To make it, dissolve 4 oz. superfine sugar in 3 oz. lemon juice. Add 8 oz. Sauternes or other French dessert wine and 16 oz. cognac. Stir well, and then add 20 oz. of water. Add ice (a lot of it), and grate some nutmeg over the top.

I spent Friday afternoon and Saturday morning trying to track down bulk spices. I ended up at three different stores

not finding what I was looking for. Is there a place in the area you could recommend?

Take a drive over to Smile Herb Shop (4908 Berwyn Rd., College Park; 301-474-8791; Smileherb.com). They have a great selection of bulk herbs and spices. The sales staff is knowledgeable and can answer any questions you have. Penzey's Spices, a Midwest-based seasoning emporium with dozens of salts, peppers and dried herbs, also has two local stores, one in Falls Church (513 W. Broad St.; 703-534-7770), the other in Rockville (1048 Rockville Pike; 301-738-8707).



Concocting New Year's Eve drinks is more fun if you know their history.

Williams-Sonoma had its holiday Cosmo Mix on sale a couple of weeks ago. My boyfriend and I stocked up. I'd like to use the mix to make signature cocktails. Any suggestions on what to add, other than vodka?

I am skeptical of mixes. A Cosmo is vodka, Cointreau and cranberry juice with a lime wedge garnish. I'm not sure what's in the mix — I'm guessing sort of a sour cranberry? I'd experiment with tequila and make a Cranberry Margarita. You could make a pitcher ahead of time, but since the mix is already made, it seems easier to just mix in the booze on an as-needed basis.



The staff of the Washington Post Food section goes Free Range on Food every Wednesday at 1 p.m. at washingtonpost.com/liveonline. Catch up on recipes, cooking trends and more.

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